



## Data: What is it good for?

How to use data to tell our story  
and inform our decisions



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# THINGS WE'LL CONSIDER TODAY

- *Why* using data is important
- *What* some data include and may tell us
- *Where* you can obtain data
- *How* you can develop and embed a practice of using data
- *Who* needs to know *what* and *when* to make decisions

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# CONTEXT

WHY USING DATA IS IMPORTANT

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## 2 KEY PRINCIPLES WE'LL EXPLORE TODAY

- We need to be willing to listen to the stories data tell
  - What do these data invite us to celebrate? What do they challenge us to address?
- We need to move from learning → action
  - What can we do about what we've found in the data?

# DATA FOR DUAL PURPOSES

Data can both serve as a window *looking out* to develop insights into students, schools, districts, etc...



...and as a mirror to *look in* and gather insights about our own practices and systems.

# ENGAGING OUR EQUITY LENS

Any system produces what it was designed to produce.

## Equality

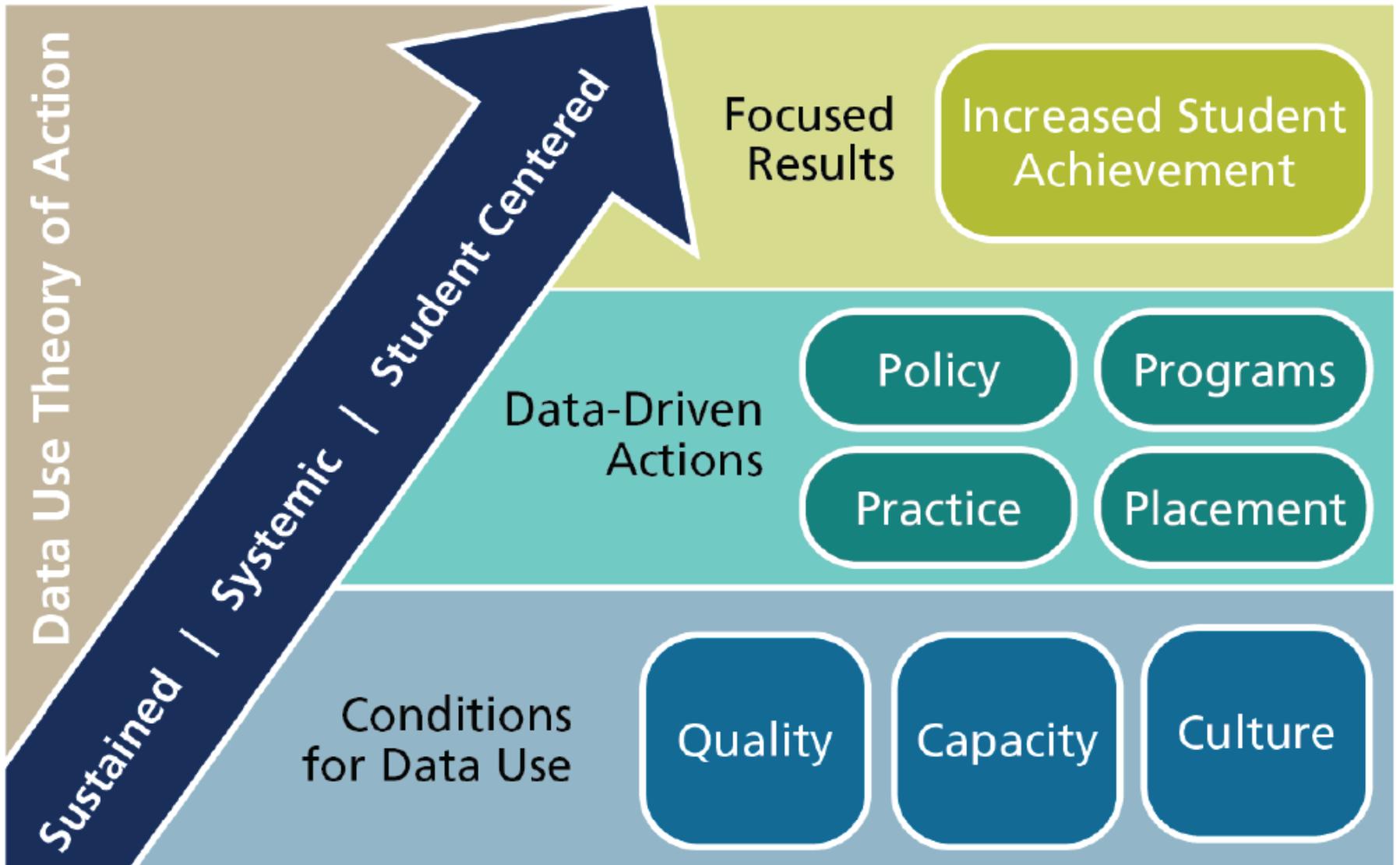


## Equity



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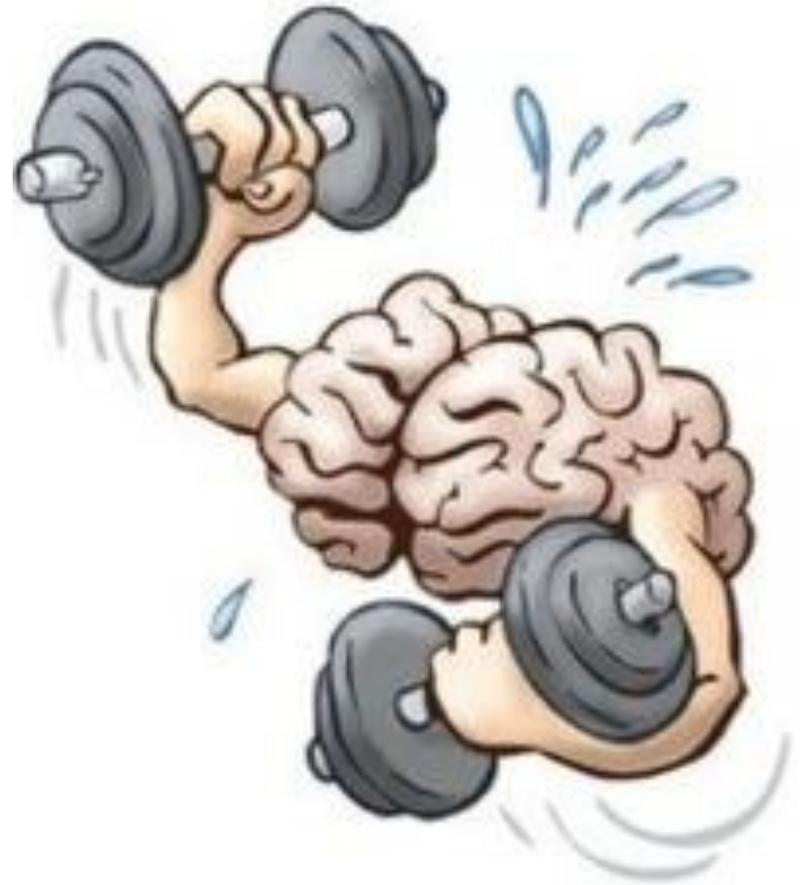
# WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



# BUILDING A COLLECTIVE DATA MUSCLE

To build a collective *culture of engagement to inform practice*:

- Commitment across all stakeholders
- Clearly articulated vision for data use
- Accountability
- Culture of collaboration and trust
- Modeling of data use by leaders at all levels
- Commitment to improvements in instruction and programming



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# YOU'VE GOT DATA, NOW WHAT?

3 SIMPLE DATA PROTOCOLS

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# HERE'S WHAT. SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

- Participants review a single data set and reflect on simple prompts, either individually, collectively, or in combination
- Guides participants through observation → inference → implications

## 1. Here's What.

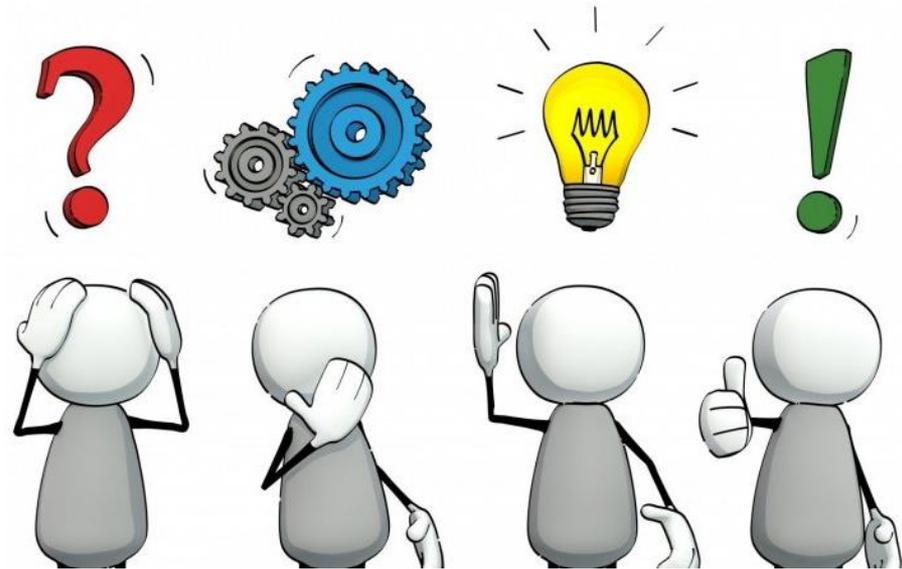
What did you learn from the data that was especially useful?

## 2. So What?

What are the implications for your community?

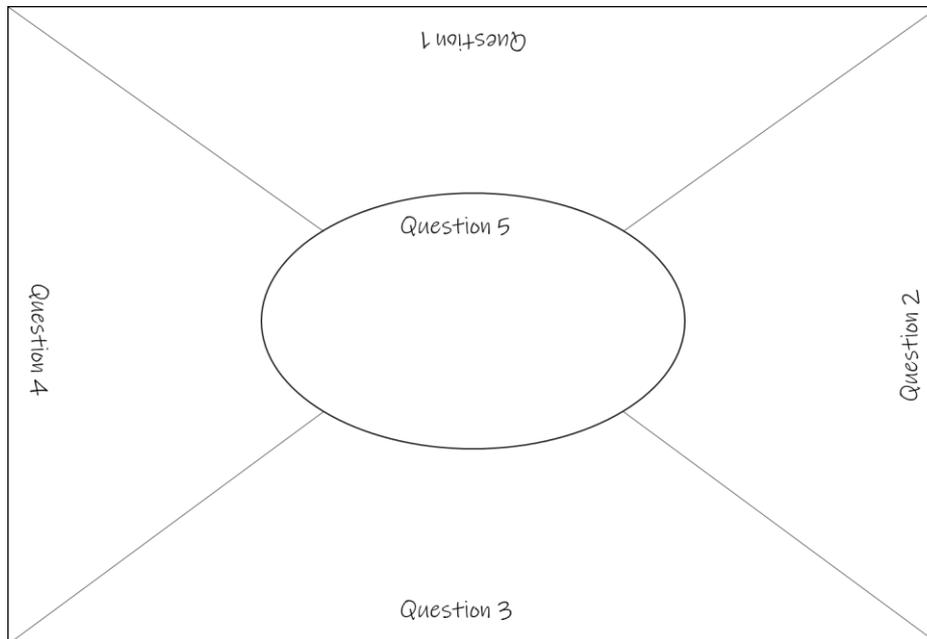
## 3. Now What?

What is one thing you will do as a result?



# PLACEMAT PROTOCOL

- Builds collective understanding of a single dataset or set of datasets in small groups (5-7 people)
- Begins with quiet individual reflection and then moves into group discussion and documentation
- Small group members can simultaneously write on the “placemat” in response to the prompts
- If using multiple datasets, groups will rotate through multiple placemats and add to previous groups’ notes



1. What do you *objectively observe*?
2. What *surprised* you in the data?
3. What do you believe the data suggest? What do you *infer* from the data?
4. What *questions* arise from this analysis (anything that will require further study)?
5. What *actions* might these data prompt?

# DATA WALK PROTOCOL

- Uses large data visualizations to engage participants and build collective understanding about specific data points pointing to challenges the group can address
- Participants review data individually and post reactions using sticky notes
- Protocol builds through individual, paired, and facilitated group discussion and reflection toward identifying key actions to take in response to the data



# COMPARING PROTOCOLS

Key things to consider when choosing which to use

Here's  
What, So  
What,  
Now What

Great for  
newbies

Simple and  
adaptable

Can be used for  
individual and/or  
collective  
reflection

Placemat  
Protocol

Great for internal  
meetings

Can be used with  
one dataset or  
more

Useful for  
building  
collective  
understanding

Data Walk

Great for larger  
groups

Works well with  
multiple  
datasets/visuals

Useful for public  
reporting and  
reflection

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# TIME FOR ACTION!

PROTOCOLS IN PRACTICE

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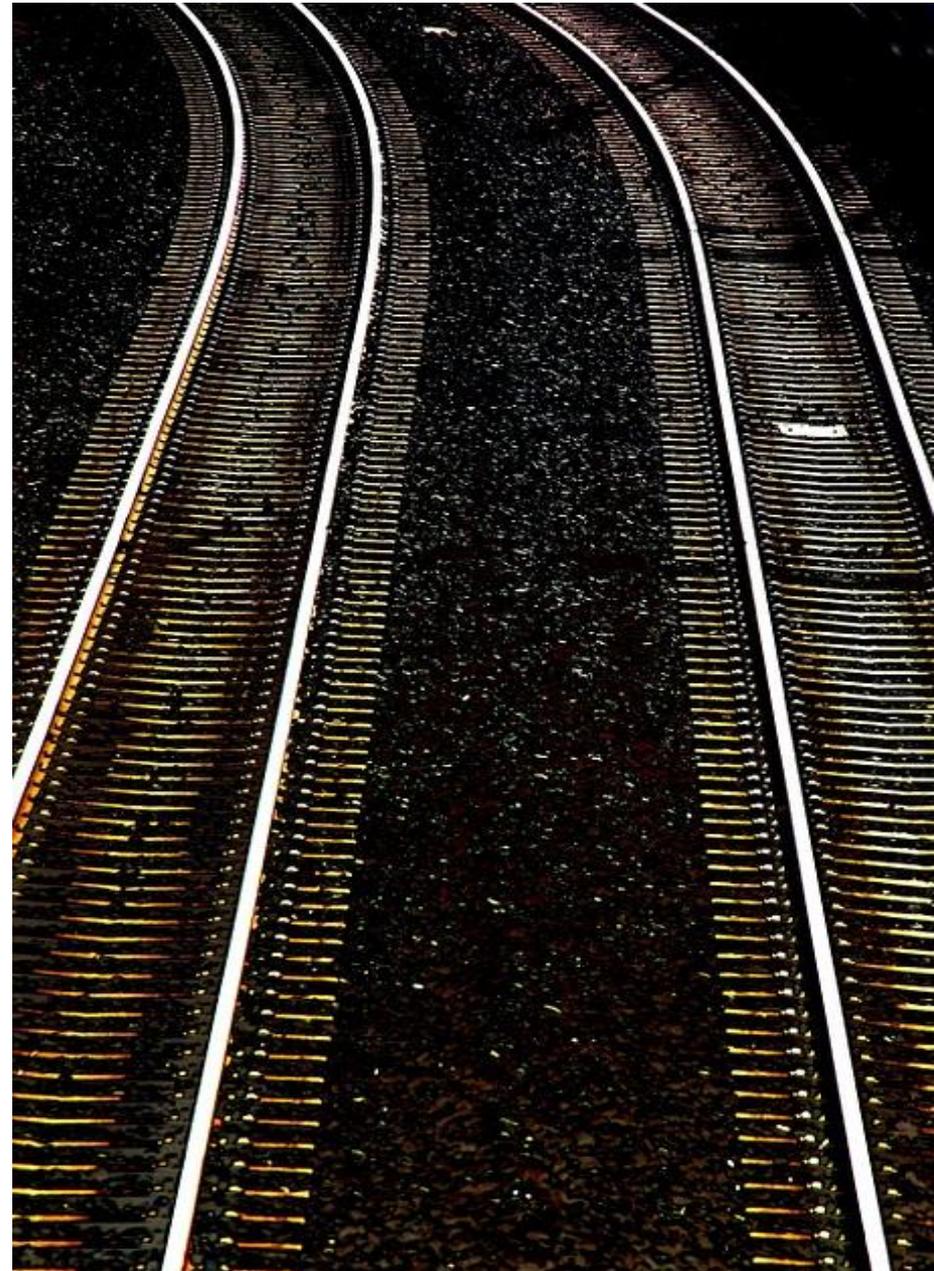


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# PROTOCOL PRACTICE GOALS

- *Develop* shared understanding of some metrics of interest
- *Practice* observing and interpreting data
- *Consider* the narratives we may begin to construct around these data
- *Practice* identifying strategies in response to data
- *Consider* implications for how to bring data into decision-making processes



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# WHERE TO LOOK FOR DATA

## Some Public Sources

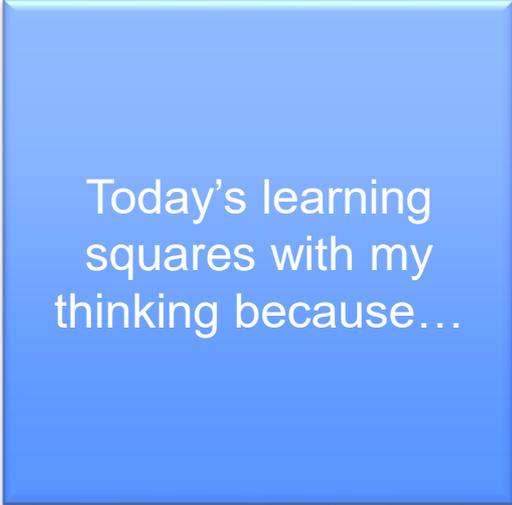
- Illinois 60 by 25 Network Dashboard ([Link](#))
- Advance Illinois Data Desk ([Link](#))
- IL Report Card ([Link](#))
- ILCollege2Career ([Link](#))
- Illinois Postsecondary Profiles ([Link](#))



# REFLECTING ON THE WORKSHOP



Something still  
circling in my  
head is...



Today's learning  
squares with my  
thinking because...



Three  
important  
points from  
today are...



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**THANK YOU**

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