Workshop on Strengthening Collaborative Data Capacity

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Welcome & Introductions

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Please introduce yourself in the chat!
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
• What kinds of questions might help guide collaborative efforts
• How to adapt protocols to a virtual context
Context
Context

Considerations For Using Data In Collaborative Efforts
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.
Which tool to use?
Engaging Our Equity Lens

Any system produces what it was designed to produce.

EQUITY FIRST: BUILDING TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE AND REVITALIZING LEARNING
What’s The Big Idea?

Data Use Theory of Action

Focused Results
Increased Student Achievement

Data-Driven Actions
Policy
Programs
Practice
Placement

Conditions for Data Use
Quality
Capacity
Culture

Sustained Systemic Student Centered

EQUITY FIRST: BUILDING TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE AND REVITALIZING LEARNING
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
Levels Of Questions

Observe

Relate

Infer
Levels Of Questions

Observe
Making observations about numbers (including point-in-time, shifts over time, differences across subgroups, etc.)

Relate
Trying to identify connections between things observable in the data

Infer
Beginning to connect relationships between data and actions, programs, etc.

While very compelling, can be challenging to get to depending on available data
Where to Look for Data

Some public data sources:

- Illinois 60 by 25 Network Dashboard (Link)
- IL Report Card (Link)
- ILCollege2Career (Link)
- Illinois Postsecondary Profiles (Link)
- Emerging: Equity Journey Continuum data (Link)
You’ve Got Data, Now What?

Identifying & Using Data Protocols
Choosing A Protocol

• What are your goals for engaging with these data?
  • Explanation
  • Shared understanding
  • Informed action

• What levels of inquiry do your questions address?
  • Observe
  • Relate
  • Infer - Can be difficult depending upon the data
Facilitating Data Conversations

- Types of questions to consider
  - **Objective/Observing:** What does this data tell us?
  - **Reflection/Relating:** How does this data relate to our experiences and what else we know?
  - **Interpretive/Inferring:** What does this data mean for us?
  - **Decisional (Response/Action):** What next steps &/or commitments do we need to take to achieve our end goals?

- Bringing all voices in
  - **Individual** meaning making
  - **Pair-share &/or small group** conversation
  - **Large group** conversation

- **Documentation:** note taking, sharing materials, etc.

- **Opening** (clear end goals, context, and agenda) &
- **Closing** (reflection, next steps/commitments, appreciations)
### Facilitating Data Conversations

**How to Facilitate Levels of Inquiry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Question</th>
<th>Data Gallery Walk example</th>
<th>Placemat Protocol Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective/ Observing</strong></td>
<td>What are your immediate/ general observations about this data?</td>
<td>What do you objectively observe?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reflection/ Relating</strong></td>
<td>What is the story behind this data? How does it connect to your experience?</td>
<td>What surprised you in the data (and why?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpretive/ Inferring</strong></td>
<td>What does this data mean for our organization?</td>
<td>What do you believe the data suggest? What do you infer from the data?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decisional</strong> (Response/Action)</td>
<td>What further information would be helpful? What solutions can you think of to address the issues raised by the data?</td>
<td>What questions arise from this analysis (anything that will require further study)? What actions might these data prompt?</td>
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Material & Space Considerations

• Data presentation materials
  • Slide decks
  • Data packets
  • Gallery walk posters
  • Notes (after meeting)

• Data engagement materials
  • Individual reflection materials, e.g. templates, notepads
  • Group reflection materials, e.g. post-its, shared placemat
  • Pens/ pencils/ markers

• Space
  • Possible seating (tables, classroom-style, open space)
  • Audio-visual/ digital access
  • Digital forums for using data protocols
Considerations About Groups

- **Group size**
  - May skip pair-share/ small group discussion if full group is already small
  - Larger group sizes may require more time, larger spaces, and different materials than smaller group sizes (depending on end goal)

- **Group Dynamics**
  - Level of trust
  - Prior experience collaborating
  - Who is at the table (both orgs and level of authority)
  - Prior experience with data

- **# of Facilitators**
Choosing A Protocol Summary

- **Set a clear goal** for the data review, which can include building a shared understanding of a topic, identifying areas for further inquiry, explaining the “current state”, etc.
- **Formulate questions at various levels of inquiry** depending on your goals
- Structure your session(s) to ensure that all voices and thinking can be brought in based on your group size and dynamics.
- **Prepare and share relevant materials** (e.g. slides, data packets, etc.) in a timely fashion
- **Document next steps and assign tasks** for team members to ensure continued collaboration and progress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Suggested Group Size</th>
<th>Takeaways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Here’s What, So What, Now What</td>
<td>Participants move through simple three-step protocol: “Here’s What”, observe a data set; “So What”, interpret the data and observations; and “Now What”, identify next steps in response</td>
<td>Small group (&lt;= 6)</td>
<td>A simple protocol that can be focused or expanded as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placemat</td>
<td>Participants review disparate data sets individually, then gather around one big &quot;placemat&quot; and share their insights</td>
<td>Small group (&lt;= 6); Large group with small break-outs</td>
<td>Ideal for building understanding of disparate but related data sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Walk</td>
<td>Participants individually engage with and reflect on outcomes data in poster format, then discuss the data collectively, with the goal of identifying solutions to improve outcomes</td>
<td>Large group, with space for individual reflection</td>
<td>Encourages large groups to reach collective understanding of outcomes, with focus on achievement or equity gaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORID</td>
<td>Participants progress through sequential levels of inquiry: Objective, focused on known data/information; Reflection on that data/information; Interpretation of that data/information; and Decision-making based on that data/information</td>
<td>Small group (&lt;= 6); Large group with small break-outs</td>
<td>A logical progression through levels of inquiry towards informed decision-making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Whys</td>
<td>Participants focus on a particularly problem and iteratively ask and discuss &quot;why&quot; to identify the root cause</td>
<td>Small group (&lt;= 6); Large group with small break-outs</td>
<td>A straightforward problem-solving protocol aimed at identifying root causes</td>
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Adapting To A Virtual Context

- Explore virtual platforms that can function like “whiteboards” or polls
- Where possible, find platforms that tie into existing practices locally
- Could be as simple as sending PDFs of data visuals or tables and hopping on a Zoom to discuss

- Microsoft Teams
- miro
- MURAL
- Google Jamboard
- padlet
Adapting To A Virtual Context
Facilitation Considerations

Consider facilitation needs:

• When to provide data
• Balancing individual reflection and group dialogue
• Ensuring inclusive participation
• Progressively deepening levels of inquiry
• Documenting takeaways and next steps
Time for action!

Protocols in Practice
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
Protocol Practice
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 → interpretation / inference → action

1. Here’s What.
   Describe what you see in the data using factual statements.
2. So What?
   What are the implications for your community?
3. Now What?
   What is one thing you will do as a result?
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...
Thank you!
@EdSystemsNIU
@advanceillinois
#ILSuccessNetwork