What is Data?

Data is a process that draws together multiple sources of data to inform decisions. These data sources include: student outcome data, measures of the extent to which current practices are implemented, and measures of capacity for sustaining the practices. These data snapshots prompt meaningful conversations about the current state of the system that lead to decisions about priorities for change.

What is purpose of Data?

The purpose of the Data process is to identify possible transformation priorities at the school, district and SEA, and to select three or four priorities to begin or continue implementation. Data conversations enable districts to establish priorities that support school transformation and strengthen district capacity to fully implement and sustain the practices. Data snapshots also help an educational system braid existing initiatives into a coherent framework, and to identify the actions that can have the biggest impact with the smallest effort.

What are the implementation steps?

In the Data process, a team:

- Reviews student and system data
- Creates shared understanding of strengths and opportunities found in each body of evidence
- Contrasts that understanding with their design for equity and excellence for all students
- Sets goals for student outcomes
- Identifies the priorities for transformation that are the next steps to achieve student outcome goals

When do teams engage in the practice?

The Data process is a body of evidence review initially utilized to establish priorities. The routine of reviewing data for impact and progress, however, occurs throughout the year, and allows teams to celebrate progress and refine priorities as needed.

As part of the continuous improvement cycle, teams may also review and analyze their data to answer different questions that will help understand and refine their priorities and planning efforts.

Suggested Citation