

Data Collection 101:

Understanding Educational Data Collection

What data collection is:

- A way to evaluate instructional strategies and programs
- A way to determine what works and what does not work
- A validation of what is working
- A way to determine what each student needs
- A means to track educational progress on a class wide, or individual basis
- A way to determine when change is needed.

What data collection is not:

- An evaluation tool to determine who is a good teacher and who is not
- A method to isolate a particular child based on their needs
- A hoop jump to get students into special education.

7 steps for understanding data collection

- Step 1. Clarify your purpose. Be specific Why are we collecting data?
- Step 2. Decide which data will serve this purpose. Choose data that matches what you are doing.
- Step 3. Find out what has been done. Check to see what has been done in the past and how did it work.
- Step 4. Work with the people who have data for your school. Don't reinvent the wheel.
- Step 5. Know When to Stop—or When You Have Enough.
- Step 6. Interpret Your Data Carefully—analyze the data
- Step 7. Make decisions based on the data. Make changes as necessary

Data analysis:

2 types of data—qualitative and quantitative.

Qualitative:

- Anecdotal**
- Often more opinion than fact**
- Emotion laden**
- Observed**

Quantitative:

- Numerical**
- Factual**
- Unemotional**
- Observed or product**
- Graphed**

Best measure is quantitative to data analysis

It is a comparison: Need to know...

- What you are comparing?**
- What is the standard for comparison?**

How do you know if you are making progress?
How do you know if you need to make a change?
DO you have sufficient data to make a good decision?

Data as a screening measure

Sorts or filters

Data as a diagnostic measure

Determines what the specific needs are

Data as progress monitoring

Determines if what you are doing works