

Components of Data Use

Assembling the Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's available and in use? • What's available and not in use? • Of the data available but not in use, prioritize what to introduce in order to answer the questions under "Analyzing Current Status." • Employ the snowball approach to introducing other new data.
Analyzing Current Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we "walking the talk" of our mission—putting our goals into action? Look for data that would provide evidence of the key phrases. • Does the school have smoldering issues that need to be viewed more objectively? Look for evidence to confirm or contradict the prevailing positions. • Drill down for student learning data related to the most essential concepts and skills.
Assessing Current Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List all change initiatives under way in your school. • Which are working as intended? • Which seem to be stuck? Why might that be? • Identify existing efforts to stop, refine, sustain, or replace current efforts.
Determining Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set priorities based on a summary of the findings about current status. • Study underlying factors related to priorities. • Research effective practices that match the specific needs in your data. • List the initiatives being continued as well as new efforts to be initiated. • Test whether the combination of strategies will respond to the specific needs and engage all staff.
Ensuring Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify indicators of implementation. • Provide professional development needed for implementation. • Mutually agree on how data will be gathered to monitor implementation. • Use data to identify internal expertise, respond to individual needs, and adjust timeliness and professional development plans.
Documenting Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate the intended effects of the strategies chosen. • What assessments will capture those effects? What assessments need to be added? • How will information about student progress be recorded and reported?