Data: What is it good for?
How to use data to tell our story and inform our decisions
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
CONTEXT

WHY USING DATA IS IMPORTANT
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.

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Any system produces what it was designed to produce.
WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA?

Focused Results
Increased Student Achievement

Data-Driven Actions
Policy
Programs
Practice
Placement

Conditions for Data Use
Quality
Capacity
Culture

Sustained | Systemic | Student Centered
Data Use Theory of Action

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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
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
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](#))
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