Using Data to Change District Culture

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“The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year.”

--John Foster Dulles
The Data Wise Improvement Process
1. Organize for Collaborative Work

- Adopt an improvement process
- Set aside time for collaborative work
- Launch a data team
- Take stock of data and initiatives
2. Build Assessment Literacy

- Explore assessment instruments
- Study assessment reports
- Apply assessment terms & principles
3. Create a **Data Overview**

- Choose a focus
- Determine the story
- Display the data
- Plan the meeting
4. Dig into Data

- Find the one in the many

- Find the many in the one

- Triangulate on a “learner-centered problem”
5. Examine Instruction

• Collect evidence of what is happening in classrooms

• Identify a “problem of practice”

• Develop shared understanding of effective practice
6. Develop an Action Plan

- Decide on an instructional strategy
- Agree on what the plan will look like in classrooms
- Put the plan down on paper
7. Plan to Assess Progress

- Set goals
- Choose assessments to measure progress
8. Act and Assess

• Integrate plan into work of the school

• Visit classrooms

• Review data and make adjustments
The “Data Wise” District

**Systems and structures**
1. Choose an improvement process
2. Align curriculum, instruction, and assessments
3. Make data accessible
4. Provide time for collaboration

**Support and accountability**
5. Create incentives for using data well
6. Train educators to work with data (including protocols)
The “Data Wise” District

Focus
7. Think big, act small—keep the focus small
8. Use daily classroom-level data

Practice
9. Repetition helps—get through the improvement cycle at least once in a school year
10. Model the work!
Further Reading


START SMALL AND BUILD ON SUCCESS