

# What's the Use? Using Your IDEA Data for Decisionmaking

**Orlando, FL – February 21-22, 2018**

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**Austin, TX – March 7-8, 2018**

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# Intended Outcomes

Participants will increase their understanding of

- The value of conducting data discussions to engage groups in data-informed decisionmaking
- A structured process for guiding conversation across a variety of data and with diverse groups
- IDC's *Data Meeting Protocol* and related resources available to support group data analysis and use

# Power of Data Discussions

- Engage stakeholders and staff in making thoughtful decisions on policies, practices, and procedures
- Leverage your data to inform resource allocation and target areas for program and service improvement
- Ensure that data have value to the agency
- Build awareness, interest, and skills for the routine use of data
- Support improved data quality

# Who Might Be in This Discussion?

- State or local staff involved in
  - Making decisions about programs, policies, procedures
  - Implementing programs, policies, procedures
- Partners, such as professional development providers
- Stakeholders, such as state advisory groups, organizations representing constituents, and families

# What Data Could Be Discussed?

- Any data relevant to understanding/improving services or outcomes
  - IDEA data
    - 616 State Performance Plan indicators
    - 618 data collections
  - Data on the programs, policies, procedures, and people behind the IDEA data, such as
    - Program, provider, and student characteristics
    - Professional development, coaching, and implementation data

# How Might This Discussion Occur?

- As a focused discussion for a single meeting, as a series of meetings, or as part of a recurring decisionmaking process
- Applied to different levels of analysis
  - High-level summary, descriptive data, basic trends
  - Drilling down into disaggregated data, multiple data points, individual-level data
  - Moving between aggregated and disaggregated data, using inferential analyses
- *Data Meeting Protocol*
  - A tool for structuring group data discussions to support data-informed decisionmaking

# Data Meeting Protocol Process

## Before the meeting

- Plan and prepare
- Key role: Protocol lead

## During the meeting

- Guide participant discussion based on the data
- Key role: Facilitator

## After the meeting

- Provide recap and next steps
- Key role: Protocol lead



# Before the Meeting

- **Determine the objective**
  - What you are trying to accomplish, the questions to answer
- **Identify the data**
  - Information needed for answering your questions
- **Identify participants and key responsibilities**
  - Perspectives to include to meet your objectives
  - Individuals to serve in the key roles throughout the process

# Before the Meeting (cont.)

- **Organize the data to present**
  - Consider the depth of analysis desired, and group members' familiarity with the content and data analysis
  - May involve aggregating or disaggregating, transcribing, visuals, etc.
- **Prepare and distribute the agenda**
  - Consider what information to share prior to the meeting (e.g., objectives, organized data group members can explore, any necessary context)

# Data Meeting Scenario 1: SEA Graduation Work Group

- Objectives
  - Introduce stakeholders to graduation data for students with disabilities
  - Gain a clearer understanding of the barriers and challenges that prevent students with disabilities in the state from graduating within 4 years
- Data
  - State-level graduation rate trend data
  - Research-based list of graduation barriers

# Data Meeting Scenario 1: SEA Graduation Work Group (cont.)

- Participants
  - SEA staff (special education, general education, Title I)
  - Stakeholders from across the state (district staff, family support groups, disability advocacy groups)
- Data organized for high-level analysis
  - Three line graphs showing graduation rates 2010-16, comparing all students and students with disabilities, and disaggregated by students with disabilities, by disability category
  - List of research-based graduation barriers, organized by topic

# Data Meeting Scenario 2: Disproportionate Representation

- Objective
  - Investigate the root causes of continued disproportionate representation in select districts
- Data
  - Indicators B9 and B10, district-level
  - Results of district self-assessment inventory of practices
- Participants
  - SEA data team (assistant special education director, Part B data manager, SEA data analyst)
  - Special education directors from relevant districts

# Data Meeting Scenario 2: Disproportionate Representation (cont.)

- Data organized for in-depth analysis
  - District-specific tables with risk ratios for 2008-16, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, disability categories, and English learner status
  - District-specific pie charts with self-assessment results, disaggregated by policy areas (e.g., core instructional programming, universal screening and progress monitoring, cultural responsiveness)

# During the Meeting

- **Provide introductions and key messages**
  - Preview meeting's purpose, agenda, and steps you'll follow
- **Present the organized data to the group**
  - Share the data for active examination, providing any relevant context
- **Guide participants through a discussion of the data**
  - Observations of the data (What do you see?)
  - Interpretations of the data (What do the data tell you?)
  - Implications of the data (What does it mean for the work?)

# During the Meeting (cont.)

- **Determine next steps for the group**
  - Note specific actions, additional meetings, how the group will communicate or be notified
- **Reflect on the meeting's effectiveness**
  - Solicit the group's feedback on what went well, what could be improved



# After the Meeting

- **Recap the meeting and confirm next steps**
  - Distribute notes from the data meeting and other post-meeting communication
  - Confirm next steps and timeline for additional actions

# Summary and Next Steps

- Structured data discussions
  - Can be used with diverse groups across a variety of data
  - Support data analysis and the active use of data for decisionmaking
- Join us for the upcoming Workshop to practice
  - Applying a structured protocol to engage groups in data discussion and decisionmaking
  - Strategies for planning, conducting, and following up on group data meetings

# Contact Us

- TA Specialists can provide individualized support for data discussions
  - Email or call your [IDC State Liaison](#)

# For More Information

**IDC** Visit the IDC website  
<http://ideadata.org/>



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