What All SEAs Should Know About Working on Data Quality With LEAs
Presenters

Fort Worth, TX – March 3-4, 2020
Fred Edora, IDEA Data Center

Nashville, TN – Cancelled Due to COVID-19
Susan Davis, IDEA Data Center
Objectives

- Participants will reflect on the benefits of SEAs working with LEAs to ensure high-quality data at the local level.
- Participants will be familiar with principles of engagement for working with LEAs to improve the quality of their data.
SEA Benefits of Working With LEAs to Ensure High-Data Quality

- Improving data quality at the LEA level leads to improved data quality at the SEA level
- Working with LEAs improves relationships, communication, and credibility
- Collaborating with the LEAs creates transparency
LEA Benefits of Working With the SEA to Improve Data Quality

• Processes for data collection, validation, analysis, and use will be standardized, reliable, valid, and available from year to year or for new staff

• Educators directly involved in making decisions about children can be confident the data they use are of high quality

• LEAs working with the SEA will have the support to affect change
Areas of Consideration for Engaging With LEAs

- Planning
- Communicating
- Collaborating
- Reflecting
- Celebrating
If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail

• Defining the work
• Assessing readiness
• Selecting LEAs
Data You Can Use for Planning

- LEA data
- Longitudinal data
- Personnel data
- Reported data that captures strengths and weaknesses

How You Can Use the Data

- Assess need or readiness
- Ascertain long-standing issues or history of good performance
- Assess staff turnover and staff needs
- Analyze student outcomes
Qualities of effective communication include transparency, clarity, timeliness, and personalization.

When communicating initially with LEAs, make sure to share
- the benefits of doing this work
- the importance of the LEA input
- what investments the LEA needs to make
- the timelines for completing the work
Communicating (cont.)

Data You Can Use for Communicating

- LEA, SEA, SPP/APR data
- Longitudinal data
- Personnel data
- Previous LEA Determinations
- Other publicly reported data

Ways You Can Use the Data

- Show data comparisons between the LEA and the SEA
- Show performance over time
- Discuss staff turnover and its implications
- Discuss overall LEA performance
- Determine how other programs could be affecting students with disabilities
Communicating – Identifying Champions

- State special education director
- SEA Part B data manager
- LEA special education director
- LEA special education data manager
- State superintendent
- Other relevant SEA and LEA staff
Collaborating

When you give people a voice in the work, you give them ownership

- Involve the LEA
- Build relationships
- Build capacity
Collaborating (cont.)

Data You Can Use for Collaborating

- Data from parent surveys
- Exiting data (e.g., graduation rates, dropout rates, job placement)
- Assessment data
- Discipline data

Ways You Can Use the Data

- Determine parent or other stakeholder perceptions of services at the district
- Find out where students are going after they leave your school district
- Find out how students are performing on assessments
- See if there are any issues regarding discipline that you need to review
Reflecting on the work reinforces success and provides direction for improvement

- What did the LEA think of the process
- What worked
- What needs to be changed
- What can you do to provide ongoing support
Reflecting (cont.)

Data You Can Use for Reflecting
• Data collection and reporting processes
• Personnel data
• LEA Determinations data
• Uncovered data quality issues

Ways You Can Use the Data
• Identify gaps and processes that need to be updated
• Identify trends and potential areas on which to focus for improvement
• Identify LEA strengths and weaknesses for compliance and student outcomes
• Identify any issues with data
Celebrating

Celebrations are a powerful motivator and add value to the work.
Celebrating (cont.)

Data You Can Use for Celebrating

• LEA, SEA, SPP/APR data that show improvement
• Data that met/exceeded preestablished targets
• Personal stories of individual success
• Tools and resources created as a result of collaboration

Ways You Can Use the Data

• Sharing at meetings with all who have been involved
• Sharing with others in LEAs who have not been involved as a way to encourage involvement
• Sharing with the State Board of Education
• Sharing at national conferences
Applying These Principles to the Work

Partnering for Progress: Engaging Local Education Agencies to Improve the Quality of Their Data

• IDC’s *Data Meeting Toolkit*
• IDC’s *Part B Indicator Data Display Wizard*
Contact Us

Fred Edora, fred.edora@aemcorp.com
Susan Davis, susan.davis1@uky.edu
Mary Watson, mary.watson@uky.edu
For More Information

Visit the IDC website
http://ideadata.org/

Follow us on Twitter
https://twitter.com/ideadatacentre

Follow us on LinkedIn
http://www.linkedin.com/company/idea-data-center
This presentation was supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H373Y190001. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

**Project Officers:** Richelle Davis and Rebecca Smith