



USE THIS GUIDE WITH YOUR STAFF

Empowered Partners in Learning

Using data to improve student personalized learning

or all children to be ready for college and their careers, they need a learning experience tailored to their unique needs, skills, and interests. Data is a critical tool that makes this personalized learning possible. When students, parents, and teachers are empowered with access to timely, useful, safeguarded data, there are so many ways to support students on their path to success.



Understand the Power of Data

When administrators, teachers, parents, and students themselves have the right data at the right time, there are many types of personalized learning experiences that are possible:

- » **Learning is individualized.** Teachers, parents, and students know where students are, and which instructional strategies and supports will best serve their unique needs, skills, and interests to get them where they need to go.
- » Students are empowered partners in their own learning. Students can see their performance over time and follow their progress toward learning goals. This empowers students to know their own strengths and to see where they need to grow. They can use this information to ask questions and have more ownership of their learning.
- » Learning is about mastery, not time spent in class. Data helps provide a clear understanding of what each student knows and still needs to learn. This helps teachers make instructional decisions that enable students to work on a skill or concept, until they have mastered it.
- » Learning continues outside of the classroom. Teachers, parents, and students have a shared understanding of how students can benefit from learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Some students pair their coursework with an internship at a local business. Others might go to the library after school to receive tutoring and access additional learning resources.

REFLECTION: What types of learning experiences are you aiming to provide to students in your school and how does data make it possible?		

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Provide Truly Useful Data

Many types of data support student learning. Academic and demographic information—as well as information from assessments, teacher observations, and student actions—empower parents, students, and educators with a complete picture of student learning. Aim to meet these four requirements for information to be truly useful:

1 Available: Data must be there when you need it.

2 Complete: It must provide a whole picture of student learning.

3 Relevant: Data must be applicable to your needs.

4 Secure: It has to be safeguarded and trustworthy.

REFLECTION: What types of data sources are available to my school? From those sources, how do I determine what information is most relevant to each group—students, parents, and teachers—to ensure a quality personalized learning experience for each student?

Data Source	Relevance for students, parents, and teachers

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Support Effective Data Use

In order to ensure that those closest to students, and students themselves, have the data they need and can use to support student learning, administrators must establish supportive school practices and policies.

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REFLECTION: What improvements must be made to current practice to improve data access, privacy, training, and communication? Who needs to play a role?

Data Access. Students, parents, and teachers have timely access to appropriate data in a format that makes sense to them.	Data Privacy and Security. Policies and practices protect the privacy and confidentiality of student data in secure systems.
Who should play a role?	Who should play a role?
What improvements should be made?	What improvements should be made?
Time, Tools, and Training to Use Data. Teachers have the time, tools, and training to collect, analyze, and use student data in an ethical way to make instructional decisions.	Communications About Data. Clearly communicate to parents and students how student data is used to support student learning.
Who should play a role?	Who should play a role?
What improvements should be made?	What improvements should be made?

Whatever the strategy, data is a critical tool for supporting all students on their path to success. When students, parents, teachers, and leaders are empowered with the data they need when they need it, there are so many ways to personalize learning.

This article is adapted from Data Quality Campaign's "You Need Data to Personalize Learning," "What Is Student Data," and "Data Can Help Every Student Excel." **Learn more at dataqualitycampaign.org.**

