



Quality Data: The Role of the Superintendent

Responsibility

As a district superintendent, it is your responsibility to enhance the educational program of students, to improve student achievement, and to see that district policies are implemented.

Things to Think About

- How does your district use data to demonstrate achievement in educational programs?
- How do you know that the data you review are accurate?
- What data are schools responsible for entering into computer systems?
- Is there an inventory of data collected in your district?
- Do personnel in your district understand the use of data in the instructional program?
- Do personnel in your district understand the use of data in funding programs?
- How do you deal with redundant requests for data?
- Are personnel available to enter data into computer systems at schools?
- Are staff responsible for data entry receiving appropriate professional development?
- Is there a process in place to resolve discrepancies in information?

Things to Do

- Set education benchmarks that use data to measure student achievement.
- Support the development of a Culture of Quality Data in your district through an effective professional development program.
- Encourage principals to make data-driven, building-level decisions.
- Support your information technology director in the promotion of more efficient data collection procedures, the use of technology to decrease data entry errors, and the movement toward applications that are "interoperable" (i.e., that interact with each other using a minimum amount of programming resources).
- Support the allocation of funding to provide schools with the appropriate resources to enter data.
- Assign a member of your staff to be a data "steward" or coordinator.

Outcomes (What's in it for me?)

A Culture of Quality Data in the district will result in reliable data that are useful for evaluating the instructional program and student achievement and for pointing out areas of success and places where improvements are needed.

A Culture of Quality Data will enable you to have confidence in the information that you review and, most importantly, will allow you to make effective decisions.