



Using Analytics to Raise Achievement and Close Gaps

Summary

Participants of the November 3 professional development hosted by NCASA responded to a brief survey regarding whether their needs were met, and what kinds of support are needed to promote using analytics for school improvement. Participants were overwhelmingly positive about their experiences, with 100% reporting that other staff in their district would benefit from participating. Eighty percent of participants reported that they would attend a follow-up conference designed to go more in depth with topics covered in the November 3rd workshop.

Resources Needed for Support

Participants reported needing the following resources to support using analytics for school improvement:

- Power Point Presentations with Narration (79%)
- Sample Logic Models for various goals (61%)
- Activities to use with PLCs (82%)
- Research Nuggets (54%)
- Leadership Support (50%)

Topics in Which Support is Needed

- Equity Issues (45%)
- Increasing Rigor (93%)
- Family Involvement (23%)
- Other (7%)

Objectives Met

Participants reported that the conference objectives of were met. These objectives included learning to use data to make better use of existing resources to promote success for all students and close achievement gaps. Comments included:

- “Yes, I learned a great deal and was able to bring back the information gained to share with others.”
- “Absolutely! I especially appreciated the presentation by Lee Stiff targeting sample lessons for rigor. In addition, the SAS Team provided me with helpful information to strengthen my utilization of EVAAS.”

- “Determining student readiness via EVAAS probability (ex. 8th grade Algebra 1) is crucial for us if we are going to close the gap and also challenge all students.”
- “Yes. While I have had access to EVASS before, I was astounded by the specific data related to the effects of students' 6th grade math placement and those related to lack of access to upper level math courses by students who did not take Alg I in 8th grade.”
- “Yes, you did. The rigor Power Point made the most difference with me.”
- “The research presented along with the data that reflects the research raises the urgency to do what is needed to change the educational direction at an accelerated rate.”
- “I finally learned to use EVAAS! And it was so easy. What I learned about the effects of tracking together with just really understanding how to use EVAAS is powerful. It makes me wonder how we have been making decisions about who gets what opportunities.”

Feedback

Participants provided general feedback. Comments included:

- “This type of workshop needs to be duplicated for every content area and offered to as many educators as possible. Data needs to be USED by teachers as well as administrators. We need more teachers exposed to this logic and application.”
- “We would like specific strategies to share with teachers that will increase the rigor in their classrooms.”
- “Lee Stiff’s presentation was one of the most powerful I have seen!”