
Analyzing Alternative Data Sources to Develop Effective Literacy Plans

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Consider this....

- All Florida schools are required to create and implement school-wide literacy plans.
 - Florida schools are evaluated based on their students' performance on the FCAT.
 - Many schools rely on FCAT data as the single source of data for developing their literacy plans.
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Ruth S. Johnson argues....

Closing the gap requires high-quality teaching and underscores the need for leaders to examine system policies, contracts, and practices that continue to perpetuate conditions of underachievement.

Scenario 1

Green Meadows Middle

- **Problem:** Student reading achievement data indicated students were not making progress in reading.
 - The reading leadership team wanted to know how much reading strategy instruction was used in classrooms.
 - Teachers had been provided with a lot of reading strategy professional development.
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Green Meadows Middle

■ Data Collection

- Teacher Surveys
 - Student Surveys
 - Administrative Walk-through Data
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- Survey Implementation
 - Survey Results
 - Plan Development
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Scenario 2

Punta Verde Elementary

- **Problem:** The reading leadership team noted that students were not making learning gains in reading.
 - Teachers complained that they did not have the necessary skills to provide instruction for the ELL population.
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Punta Verde Elementary

■ Action

- ELL specialists from the district were asked to attend the team meetings to provide information about training for teachers.



Punta Verde Elementary

- Data Collection
 - Demographic study.



Scenario 3

Pie in the Sky High

- **Problem:** The reading coach noticed that throughout the school the vast majority of students were not actively engaged.
 - She noted that most kids sat at desks, listened, took notes, or avoided tasks at hand.
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Pie in the Sky High

- Data Collection
 - The reading coach and curriculum specialist held a student focus group for the literacy leadership team to observe.



Pie in the Sky High

- Findings

- ❑ Students were bored in school.
 - ❑ Students were tired of useless work like word scrambles.
 - ❑ Discipline problems interfered with learning.
 - ❑ Students liked learning from teachers who made it interesting.
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- Teacher Perceptions
 - Students were not doing homework
 - Students came to class unprepared
 - Survey Results
 - Students
 - Teachers
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Using Data to Identify Areas of Concern

- Compare the previous scenarios.
 - How does the use of data help guide a school's progress?
 - How does acting on assumptions hinder a school's progress?
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Brainstorming

- What types of data are available at schools?
 - Student
 - Teacher
 - Classroom instruction
 - District
 - Community
 - Other
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Data with a Purpose

- What kinds of questions or concerns are you wondering about at your school?
 - What kinds of data might be collected to learn more about these issues?
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Triangulation

Just as a stool is most solid on a foundation of three legs, your data will be more solid and give you more information if you collect it from more than one source, at more than one point in time.



Quote

“Teachers who rush to complete the problem formulation (investigating) stage are more likely to flounder in their later efforts, whereas teachers who take their time to reflect and define their problem are more likely to pursue questions yielding meaningful results.”

R. Sagor, 1992
*How to Conduct Collaborative
Action Research*, p. 12

Green Meadows Middle

■ Action Plan

- ❑ Teachers will be given an opportunity to take Marzano's training.
 - ❑ Reading coach would work with individual teachers to help them learn how to embed reading strategies into their content area instruction.
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- Teacher Surveys
 - Action Research
 - Plan for next year
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Narrowing the Focus

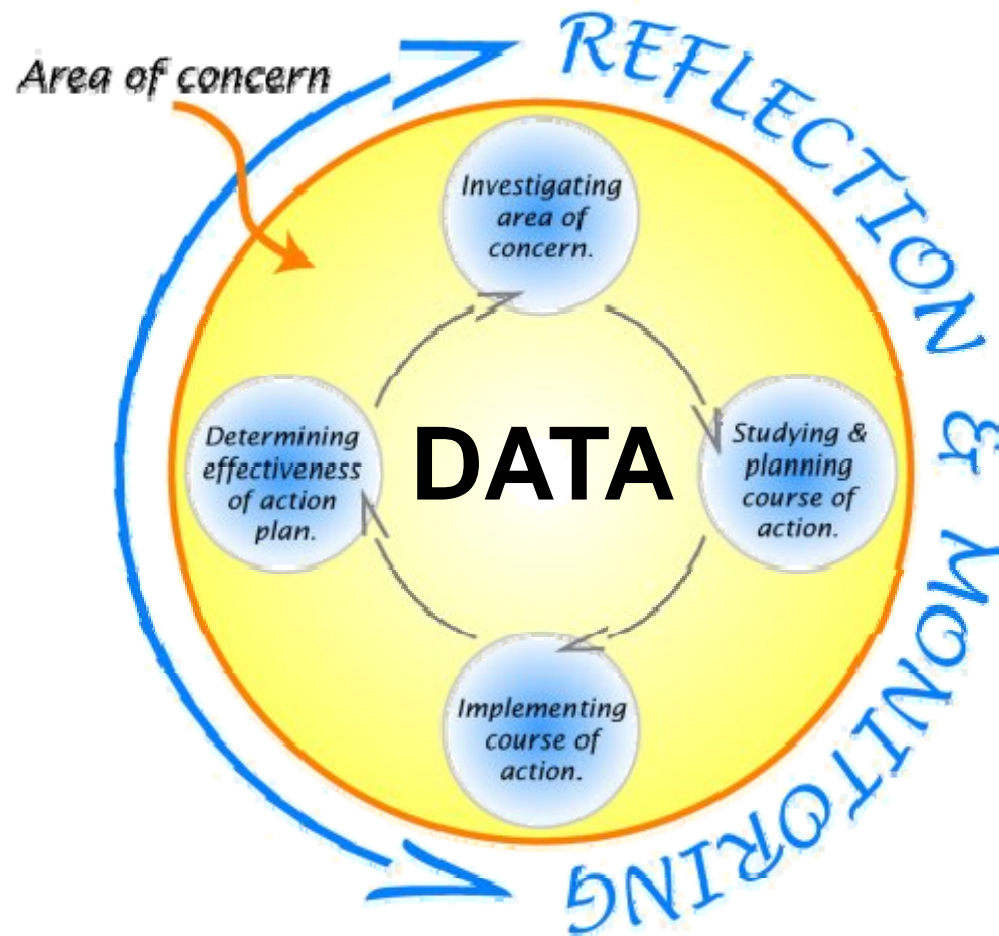
A good action plan must:

- identify a desired change,
 - be specific and measurable,
 - indicate evidence or data to be collected,
 - be answerable in a reasonable amount of time.
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Assessing our Actions

- Once a plan has been developed, systems must be put into place that will allow the team to use data to determine the merit and worth of their actions.
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Model for Literacy Plan of Action



Recap

- Use data to guide action plan
 - Include multiple sources of data including formal and informal formats
 - Use data to evaluate to determine the merit and worth of your plan
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