Connector Newsletter

ISDs/RESAs are taking Data 4SS into Action!

As of April 2010, 53 of the 57 ISDs have submitted their Action Plans that outline how they will work with their local school districts in helping them build a culture of quality data. The Action Plans are meant to outline the professional development activities that the ISD/RESA will undertake. Once submitted and approved by the Data for Student Success team, funds are made available to help assist the ISD/RESA in implementing their plans. ISDs/RESAs who have submitted Action Plans are represented in dark blue on the map to the left.

In their Action Plan, Bay Arenac said:

"D4SS is a critical tool for school improvement teams in Michigan……We have created this proposal with the focus on training a high number of teacher leaders and administrators in order to increase the chances of sustainability over time, over leadership changes and placement changes that are sure to occur."

In their plan, they identified four of the Data for Student Success Professional Development modules, the FERPA activities, as well as a keynote session in June with Mike Schmoker. The funding from Data for Student Success as well as registration fees they collected helped them defray the keynote and materials expenses for the five workshops.

Other examples include Tuscola ISD who has infused the resources of Data 4SS into their school improvement/comprehensive needs assessment training for local school districts. At Iosco, two local superintendents are leading the initiative for the county where they are identifying and training elementary, middle and high school data and curriculum leaders from ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Through their model, they will be training all teachers in the two districts.

Manistee indicated in their Action Plan:

"Working with the teacher leaders and administrators … will help develop capacity in the ISD to provide a foundation of support. Working with the general population of teachers (el, ms, hs), including our high priority school, through our integrated sessions (ISD-wide PD days and using data to improve student achievement/data-driven decision making workshops, etc.) will further increase and sustain use."

They used their funds to help with teacher stipend and sub costs as well as food and materials for their sessions for teachers and administrators.

Release Notes

As we continue to enhance the dynamic inquiry tools, we will provide a summary of what has been changed with each new release. Here is an excerpt from the March Release Notes (they are available at www.data4ss.org on the Dynamic Inquiry page):

All Inquiries and Miscellaneous
- Display the maximum strand (standard) score when displaying the strand (standard) scores for a student.
- Excel export enhancement to provide counts and percentages in separate columns. This modification has been made system wide; both the display and the export now have separate columns for the counts and the percentages.
- Place the school year at the beginning of the header/title for each display. This modification has been made system wide.

Did You Know?
- During a three week window in early April, users from 49 ISDs and/or their locals accessed the Dynamic Inquiry Tools – and that was during spring break for many!
- The most often visited assessment inquiries in April were: MEAP Proficiency, Near Proficiency, Cohort, Comparative Item Analysis; and MME Proficiency

Release Notes, continued from front page:

- Consistent headers and footers – updates have been made system wide to ensure consistent reporting of inquiry names, grades, schools years, and locations selected for exportable data
- Tested roster data will now be used to derive student level drill down data for the following assessments: MEAP, MME, MIACCESS
- Limit school year dropdown to only years where data exists for each assessment – this change has been made system wide
- Updates to online user help text located throughout the MEAP inquiries
- Technical/software upgrades have been applied to the entire system. This enables us to better support the application in the long-term. This impact can be seen in the new "look and feel" of the menus, graphs, and tabular results within the application.

So What Have We Accomplished?

<u>2007 – 2008</u>

- Focus groups to validate developmental work and provide input in 3 locations (Calhoun, Macomb and Shiawassee ISDs) – 78 participants
- Key Contact Groups were convened to solicit feedback on the tools and professional development
- 102 surveys provided quantitative and qualitative measure
- From the 102 Survey responses:
    - 81% rated PD as moderately / extremely helpful
    - 69% indicated PD provided practical strategies and support
    - 75% rated PD as good or excellent
    - 63% indicated they were "ready" to use data and tools for School Improvement

<u>2008 – 2009</u>

- Project continues with Calhoun, Macomb and Shiawassee ISDs and adds Barry, Branch, Clinton, Eastern UP, and Jackson ISDs
- More than 500 individuals were surveyed throughout Focus Group (25) and PD Sessions (17)
- Six Dynamic Inquiries available; 4 concrete PD modules
    - 86% understood and valued goals and tools in Data4SS project
    - 84% indicated the PD refreshed and deepened their knowledge in data driven decision-making
    - 83% indicated the PD and tools increased their ability to utilize data reports in School Improvement
- Calhoun ISD hosted 6 "launches" throughout the state where ISDs/RESAs attended and began writing Action Plans for disseminating the use of the Data 4SS PD resources and Dynamic Inquiries to their local school districts
    - Escanaba, Flint, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Cadillac, Belding

November 2009 Sustainability Event
Lansing, MI
Mike Schmoker, Keynote

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So What Have We Accomplished from previous page:
<u>2009 – 2010</u>

- Calhoun ISD hosted three Sustainability Symposiums to support continued use of Data 4SS resources for their ISD and LEA School Improvement efforts and to roll out updates to Dynamic Inquiries and Professional Development modules
  - August 2009: Mackinac Island
  - December 2009: Lansing
  - May 2010: Ann Arbor
- Advisory Committee restructured to include appropriate MDE and CEPI staff
- Creation of Newsletter communication tool
- Improvements to Dynamic Inquiries with the addition of MME and MI-Access
- New PD module development (7 new modules)
  - Assessment
  - Data Conferencing
  - Creating Conditions for Professional Learning
  - Leadership
  - Writing
  - Beyond Achievement Data
  - MME

<u>2009 – 2012</u>
What are our present plans?

- Provide train-the-trainer professional development and support for multiple cohorts of current and remaining ISDs/RESAs
- Enhance the online dynamic inquiries based on currently identified data sets (MEAP, MME, ELPA, and MIACCESS) and input from participating ISDs/RESAs.
- Modify the professional development model around the enhanced dynamic inquiries and Identify how the 'School Improvement Planning' and D4SS inquiry tools could be used to support the CNA and Annual Education Report reporting process.
- Continue building a basis for the expansion and sustainability of the work with local and intermediate school district staff and among and between state agencies.
- Working with MDE and CEPI to sustain the work of Data for Student Success

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What our evaluations have said:
For the August Sustainability Event:

- 91.7% of the participants thought the training was either extremely or moderately helpful in understanding the Data4SS project.
- 94.4% of participants believed the events were extremely or moderately helpful in refreshing their knowledge of data driven decision making.
- 97.2% of participants felt the activities were at least somewhat helpful in understanding data availability and use.
- 97.2% said the activities were at least somewhat helpful in increasing their ability to use data reports for decision making.
- 94.4% said the event helped them with their ability to use the dynamic inquiry tools.

For the November Sustainability Event:

- 85.3% of the participants thought the training was either extremely or moderately helpful in understanding the Data4SS project.
- 88% of participants believed the events were extremely or moderately helpful in refreshing their knowledge of data driven decision making.
- 89.3% of participants felt the activities were at least somewhat helpful in understanding data availability and use.
- 82.7% said the activities were at least somewhat helpful in increasing their ability to use data reports for decision making.
- 90.7% said the event helped them with their ability to use the dynamic inquiry tools.

For the six Launch events:

- 117 individuals from all 57 ISDs attended launch events; 70 completed surveys (60% response rate)
  - 85.1% said they were provided practical strategies
  - 81% thought the activities were extremely or moderately helpful in understanding Data for Student Success
  - 74% felt the activities helped them refresh and refocus on data driven decision-making
  - 100% felts activities helpful in understanding data availability and tools
  - 98.5% indicated activities were helpful in increasing their ability to use data for School Improvement

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