Data: What is it good for?

How to use data to tell our story and inform our decisions

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THINGS WE'LL CONSIDER TODAY

- *Why* using data is important
- *What* some data include and may tell us
- *Where* you can obtain data
- *How* you can develop and embed a practice of using data
- *Who* needs to know *what* and *when* to make decisions

CONTEXT

WHY USING DATA IS IMPORTANT

2 KEY PRINCIPLES HAT WE'LL EXPLORE TODAY

- We need to be willing to listen to the stories data tells
  - What do these data invite us to celebrate? What do they challenge us to address?

- We need to move from learning → action
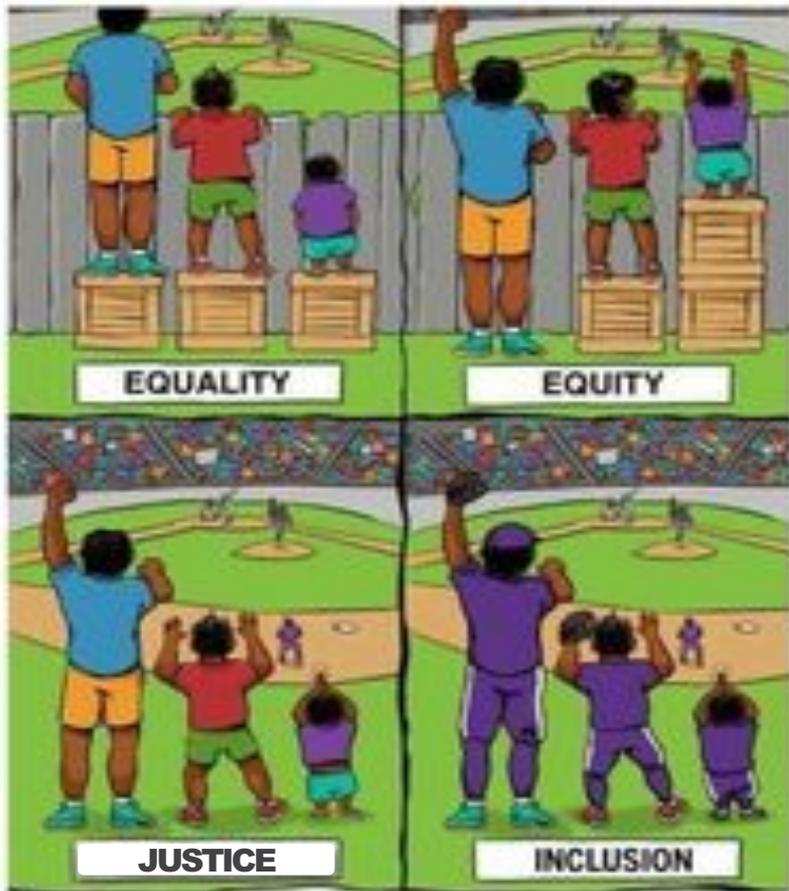 - What can we do about what we've found in the data?

DATA FOR DUAL PURPOSES

Data can both serve as a window *looking out* to develop insights into students, schools, districts, etc…

I See...

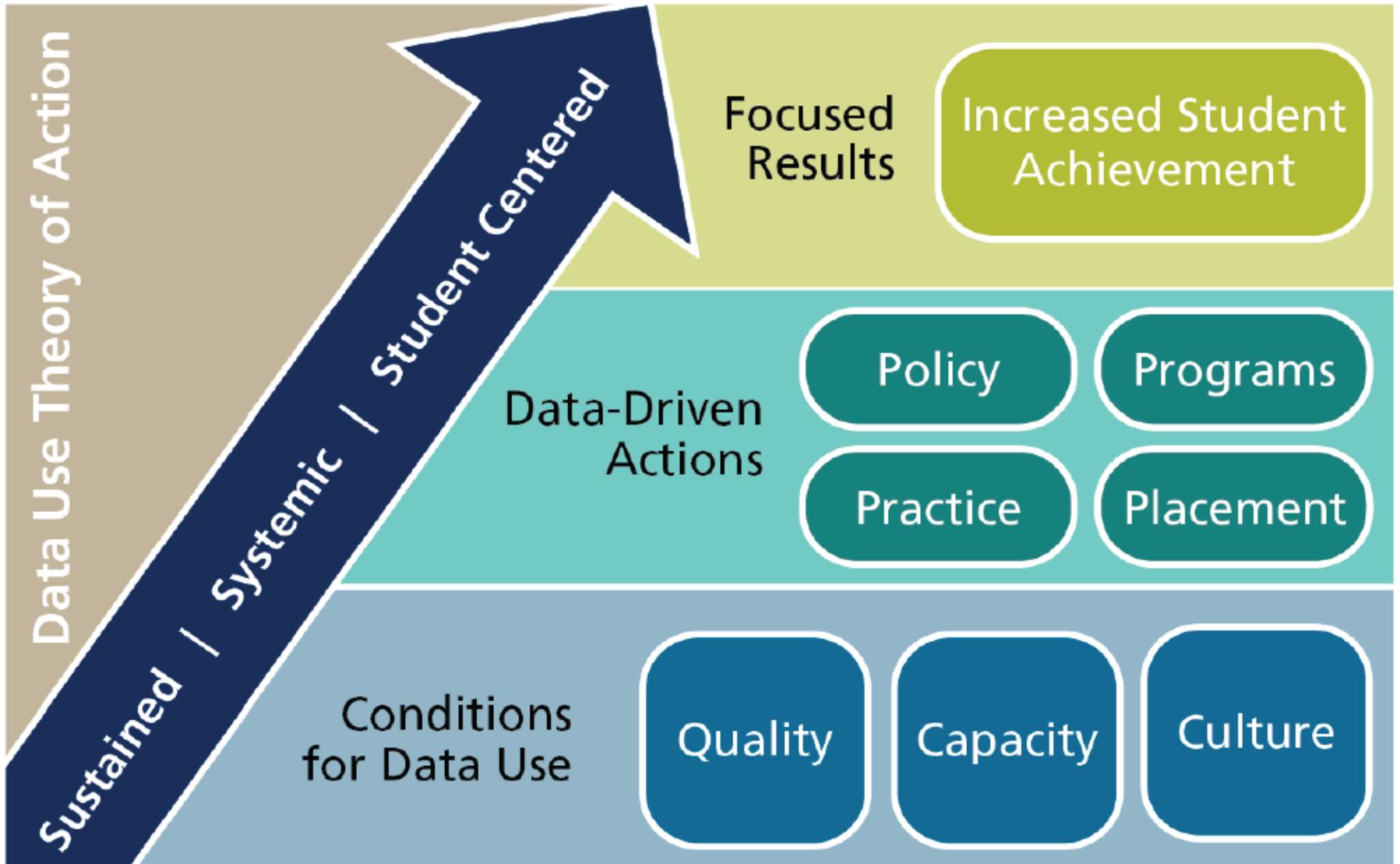…and as a mirror to *look in* and gather insights about our own practices and systems.

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ENGAGING OUR EQUITY LENS

EQUALITY · EQUITY · JUSTICE · INCLUSION

Any system produces what it was designed to produce.

Image credit: flickr.com/dagnyg

NATIONAL EQUITY PROJECT

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WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Data Use Theory of Action

Sustained | Systemic | Student Centered

Focused Results — Increased Student Achievement

Data-Driven Actions — Policy, Programs, Practice, Placement
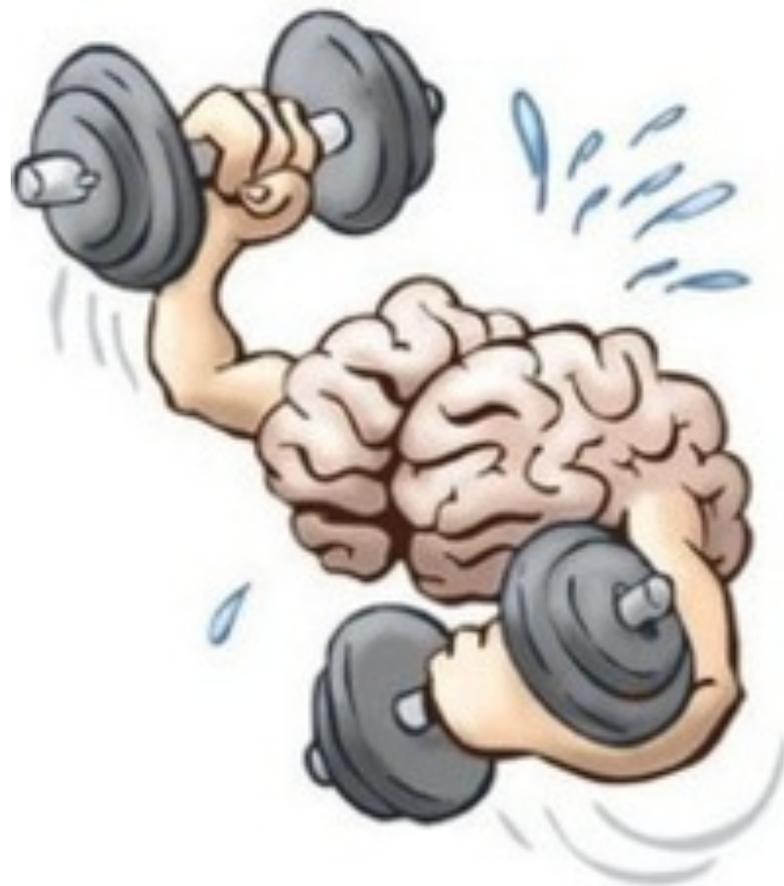
Conditions for Data Use — Quality, Capacity, Culture

BUILDING A COLLECTIVE DATA MUSCLE

To build a collective _culture_ of _engagement_ to _inform practice_:

- Commitment across all stakeholders

- Clearly articulated vision for data use

- Accountability

- Culture of collaboration and trust

- Modeling of data use by leaders at all levels

- Commitment to improvements in instruction and programming

YOU'VE GOT DATA, NOW WHAT?

3 SIMPLE DATA PROTOCOLS

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HERE'S WHAT. SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

- Participants review a single data set and reflect on simple prompts, either individually, collectively, or in combination
- Guides participants through observation → inference → implications
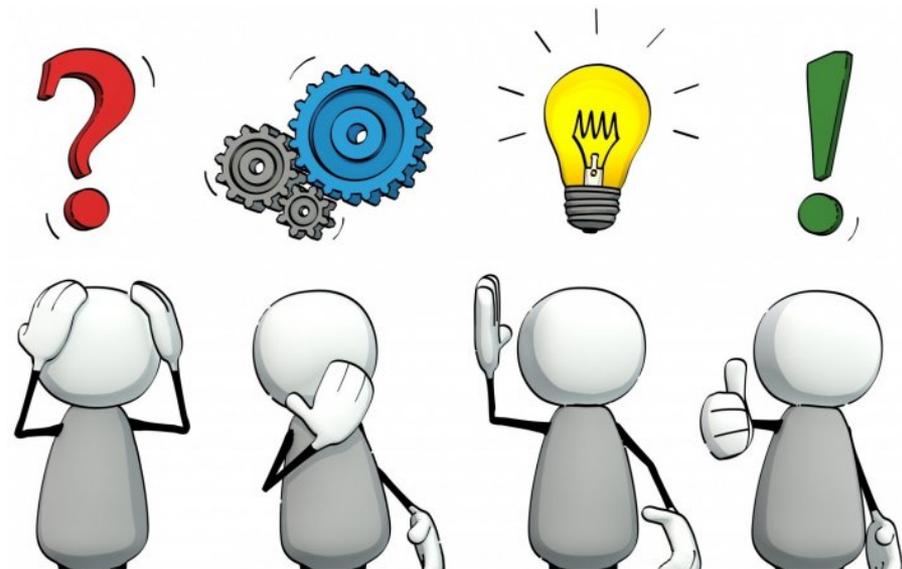
1. **Here's What.**
   What did you learn from the data that was especially useful?
2. **So What?**
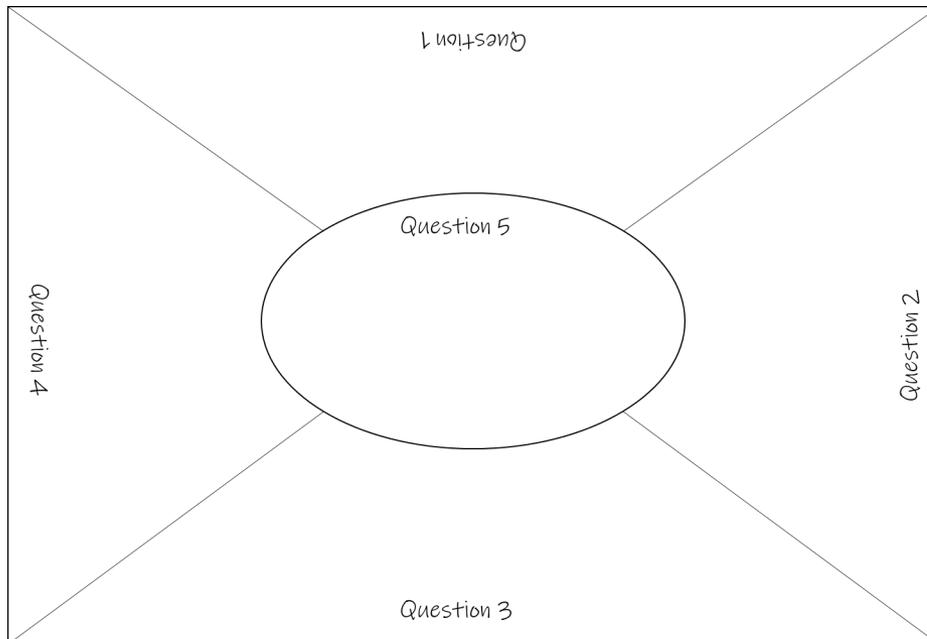   What are the implications for your community?
3. **Now What?**
   What is one thing you will do as a result?

PLACEMAT PROTOCOL

- Builds collective understanding of a single dataset or set of datasets in small groups (5-7 people)

- Begins with quiet individual reflection and then moves into group discussion and documentation

- Small group members can simultaneously write on the "placemat" in response to the prompts

- If using multiple datasets, groups will rotate through multiple placemats and add to previous groups' notes

Question 1

Question 4

Question 5

Question 2

Question 3

1. What do you *objectively observe*?
2. What *surprised* you in the data?
3. What do you believe the data suggest? What do you *infer* from the data?
4. What *questions* arise from this analysis (anything that will require further study)?
5. What *actions* might these data prompt?

DATA WALK PROTOCOL

- Uses large data visualizations to engage participants and build collective understanding about specific data points pointing to challenges the group can address

- Participants review data individually and post reactions using sticky notes

- Protocol builds through individual, paired, and facilitated group discussion and reflection toward identifying key actions to take in response to the data

COMPARING PROTOCOLS

Key things to consider when choosing which to use

Here's What, So What, Now What

- Great for newbies
- Simple and adaptable
- Can be used for individual and/or collective reflection

Placemat Protocol

- Great for internal meetings
- Can be used with one dataset or more
- Useful for building collective understanding

Data Walk

- Great for larger groups
- Works well with multiple datasets/visuals
- Useful for public reporting and reflection

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TIME FOR ACTION!

PROTOCOLS IN PRACTICE

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PROTOCOL PRACTICE GOALS

- *Develop* shared understanding of some metrics of interest

- *Practice* observing and interpreting data

- *Consider* the narratives we may begin to construct around these data

- *Practice* identifying strategies in response to data

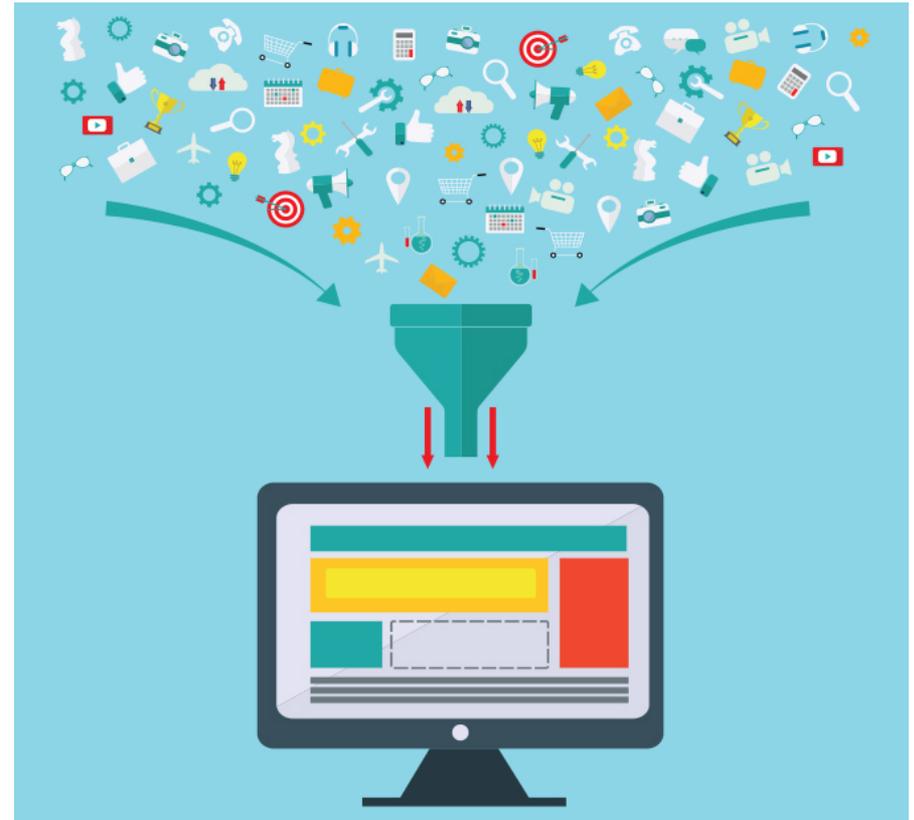- *Consider* implications for how to bring data into decision-making processes

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WHERE TO LOOK FOR DATA

Some Public Sources
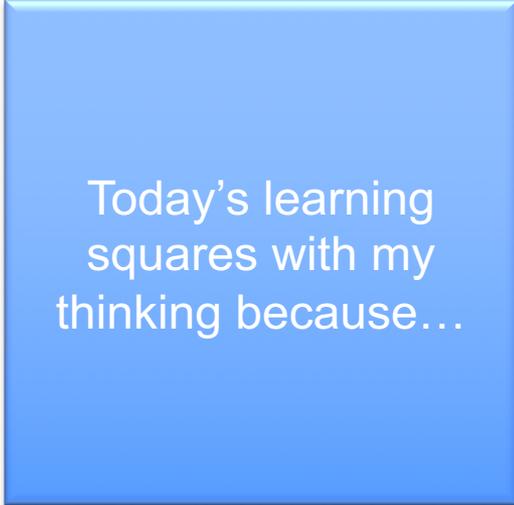
- Illinois 60 by 25 Network Dashboard (Link)

- Advance Illinois Data Desk (Link)

- IL Report Card (Link)

- ILCollege2Career (Link)

- *Coming Soon*: Illinois Postsecondary Profiles

REFLECTING ON THE WORKSHOP

Something still circling in my head is…

Today's learning squares with my thinking because…

Three important points from today are…

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NETWORK

THANK YOU

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