TRANSFORMING EDUCATION'S
Data Discussion Quick Tips

When equitably collected, analyzed, and reported, school climate data are essential ingredients in providing responsive and holistic support. Such data offer windows into individual insights as well as collective experiences and are critical to elevating and integrating diverse perspectives. Data, however, are valuable only when actionable. Data must be collected with the intention and ability to analyze and take informed action, in timely and meaningful ways.

Data Discussion Quick Tips

KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

DIVERSIFY THE DISCUSSION

PLAN AND PREPARE

UTILIZE A PROTOCOL

DIG DEEP AND NOTICE NUANCE

IDENTIFY EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

PLAN INTENTIONAL ACTION

Data Discussion Quick Tips

KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING
Before collecting any kind of data, consider what you hope to learn and how you might take action based on that information. Only collect data that you believe you and your team can act on in a timely manner.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX
Consider all methods of data collection. Surveys about school climate are increasingly common and can offer helpful insight. Other, less formal, sources such as classroom observations, student reflections, attendance and behavior data, and school walk-throughs can also shed light on school climate.

DIVERSIFY THE DISCUSSION
Make a plan to discuss data with a diverse group of students, families, and staff. These community members will offer additional context and alternative perspectives, adding depth and insight to the discussion.

PLAN AND PREPARE
Review data to note key themes, open questions, and areas for further inquiry prior to the discussion. Disaggregate data (e.g. by gender, race/ethnicity, language learner status) so participants can reflect on similarities and differences within and across subgroups. Share an agenda and guiding questions prior to the meeting so participants know what to expect and can come prepared.

UTILIZE A PROTOCOL
Use a protocol to structure the discussion in a way that moves from description to interpretation to implications. Consider using the ATLAS Protocol from School Reform Initiative or the Data Discussion Prompts from Panorama.

DIG DEEP AND NOTICE NUANCE
Some trends emerging from data may be symptoms of more systemic issues. Use some form of root cause analysis, such as The 5 Whys, to help identify the deeper issues at play and identify the solutions most likely to have an impact. Other tools for digging deeper include shadowing a student or holding focus groups.

IDENTIFY EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES
Once you have surfaced key themes and sought out deeper context and nuance, search for evidence-based practices that can address the issues you surfaced.

PLAN INTENTIONAL ACTION
Name specific next steps to ensure that the data inform concrete actions. Prioritize the actions that are most likely to be feasible and have a significant impact. Identify an owner and timeline for each next step.