
DATA TO PRACTICE PROTOCOL¹

1. **What is the first thing you notice about your data?** Is there anything that stands out as surprising, disappointing, or exciting?

- *What do you notice first? What stands out?*
- *What is interesting or exciting?*
- *What is disappointing or frustrating?*
- *What are you skeptical about?*

2. **What does the data say?** Take a couple of moments to jot down observations (*not* interpretations) about your data. Focus on simply *describing* what you see (e.g. "90% of the youth in my program say that getting a college education is important to them").

- *What results are positive or make you proud?*
- *Which results suggest challenges or weaknesses?*
- *Which results affirm what you already know?*
- *Which results offer new information?*
- *Does the data answer some of the questions you hoped it would answer?*

3. **What does the data suggest to you?** Choose one or two data points, and try to think of possible interpretations. Are there more than one? What makes the most sense to you? Does the data challenge any of your assumptions?

- *What is most significant in the data?*
- *What are emerging patterns or key themes?*
- *How can you interpret the emerging themes and patterns?*
- *Why do these results look this way?*
- *What other things do you need to consider?*
- *What questions has this raised for you?*

4. **How could you act on the data?** What are the implications for program practice? Is there anything you would like to do differently as a result of looking at the data? Try to come up with at least one idea for applying this data to your work.

- *What applications or action ideas has this triggered for you?*
- *What kinds of program changes could you make based on this information?*
- *What is not a priority or concern at this time?*
- *Who else should see this information?*
- *What kind of decisions should take this information into account?*

¹ This document is partially adapted from the ATLAS Looking at Data Protocol, available on the National School Reform Faculty website at http://www.nsrffharmony.org/system/files/protocols/atlas_looking_data_0.pdf
Partnership Toolkit <http://ydekc.org/resource-center/partnership-toolkit/>