# Strengthening Collaborative Data Capacity

**College Changes Everything Conference**

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# Welcome & Introductions

- Emily Rusca, Education Systems Center at NIU

- Chelsea Dawkins, Education Systems Center at NIU

# Topics We'll Consider Today

- *Why* using data is important

- *What* data may tell us

- *How* to develop and embed a practice of using data

- *Where* to obtain data

- *What* kinds of questions guide collaborative efforts

- *How* to adapt to a virtual context

**GOAL:** Increased understanding of the importance of leveraging data and increased comfort engaging in data conversations with others
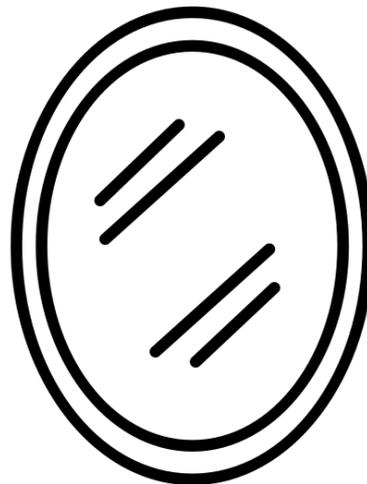
# Context for Data Use

**Considerations for Using Data in Collaborative Efforts**

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# Dual Purpose of Data

Data can serve as a window, looking out to develop insights into students, schools, districts
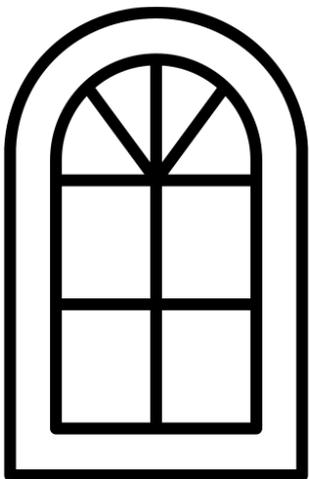
Data can serve as a mirror, to look in and gather insights about our own practices and systems
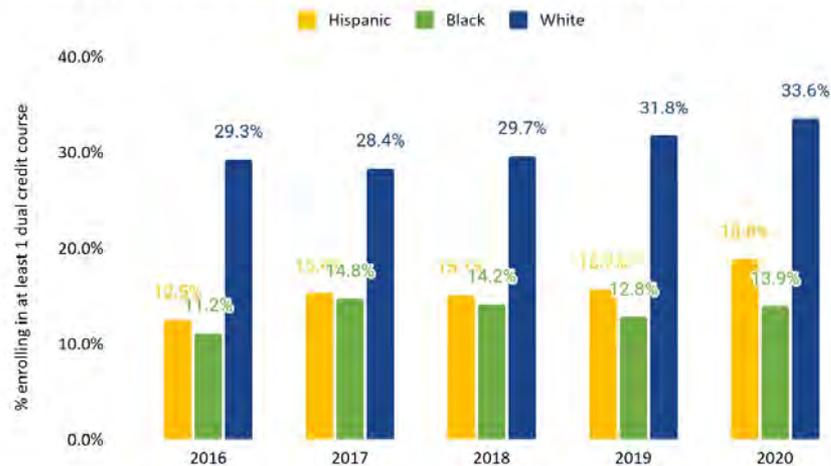
# Which Tool to Use?

# Data through an Equity Lens

Looking at disaggregated data creates opportunities to better understand how programs and systems impact different groups
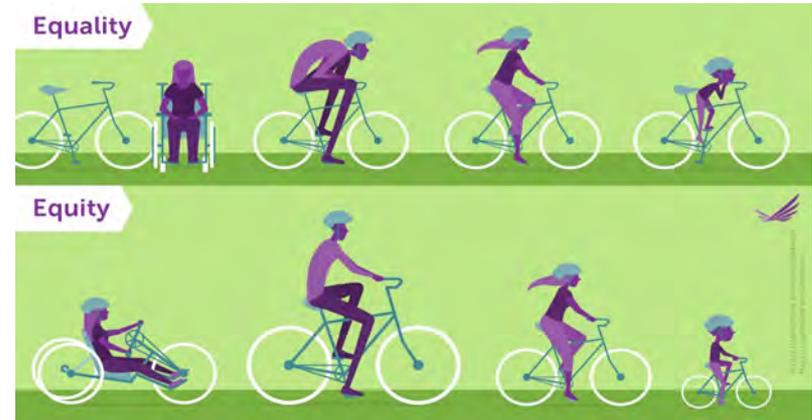


State-level dual credit enrollment, by grade: SY2016 – SY2020

State-level dual credit enrollment, by race/ethnicity: Grade 12

# Engaging Our Equity Lens



Any system produces what it was designed to produce.

Image credit: flickr.com/dagnyg

NATIONAL EQUITY PROJECT



Equality

Equity

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# What's the Big Idea?
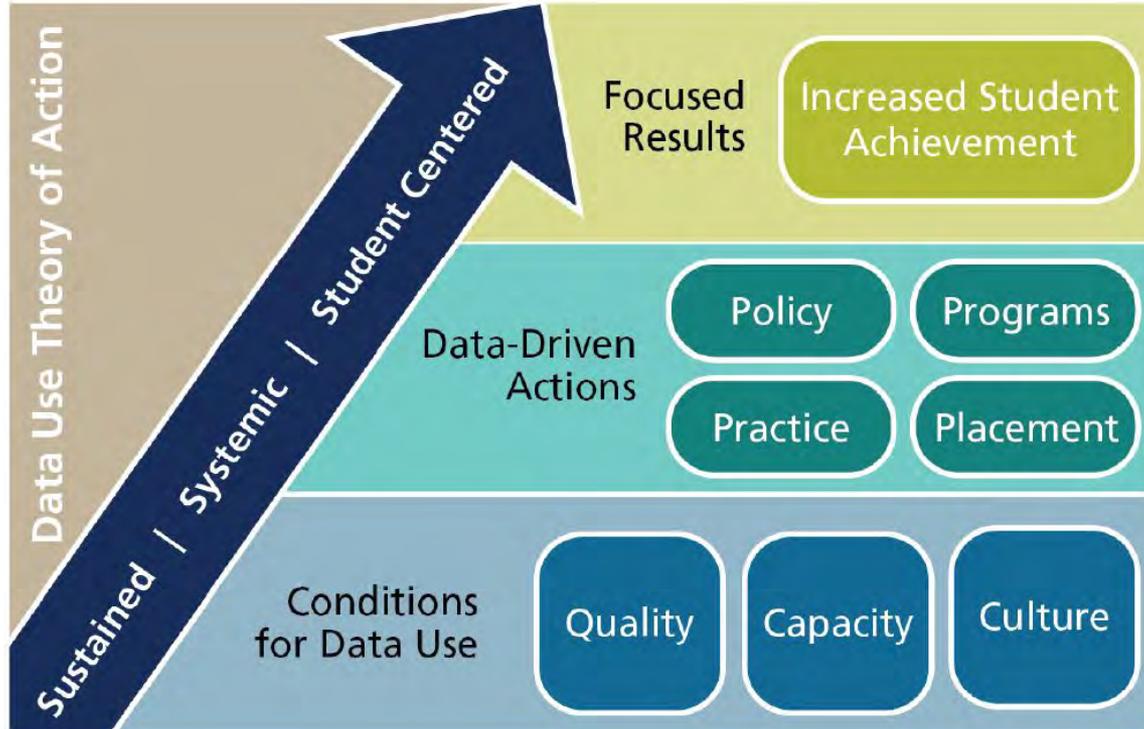
# Collective Data Engagements

Creating a collective culture around data requires:

- Commitment across stakeholder groups
- Clearly articulated vision for data use
- Accountability
- Culture of collaboration and trust
- Leadership at all levels to model proper data use
- Commitment to data driven improvements in instruction and programming

# Data Culture: An Ongoing Process
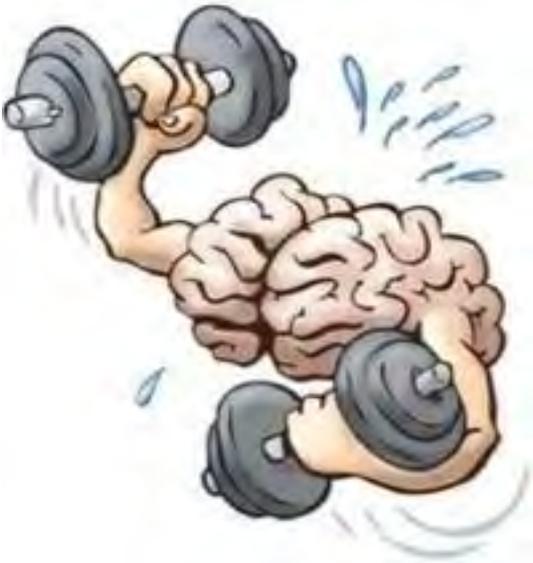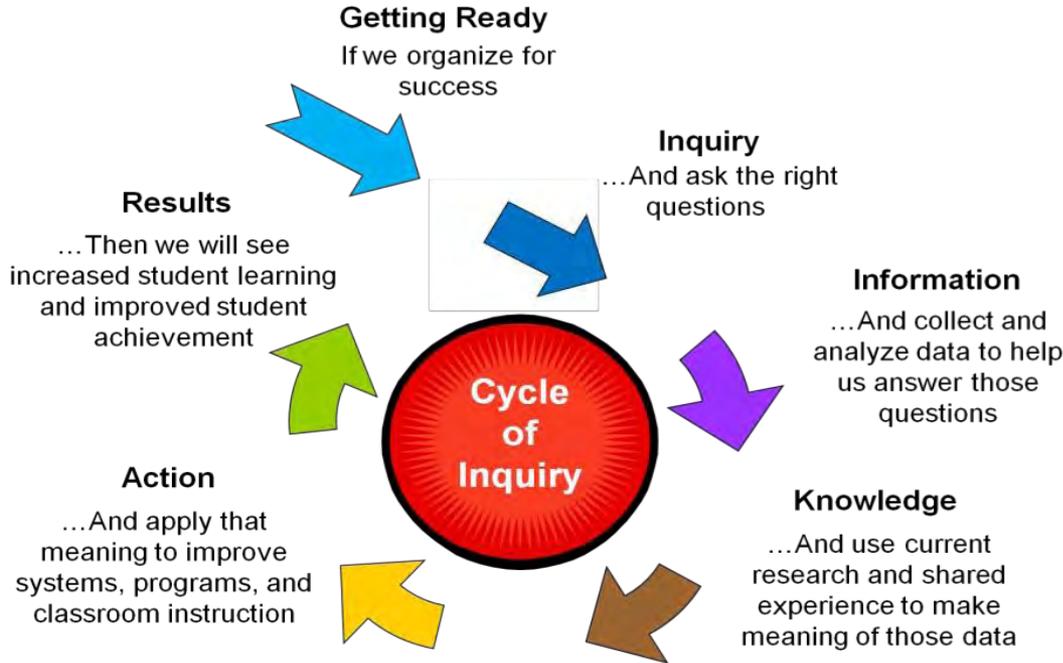


**Getting Ready**
If we organize for success

**Inquiry**
…And ask the right questions

**Information**
…And collect and analyze data to help us answer those questions

**Knowledge**
…And use current research and shared experience to make meaning of those data

**Results**
…Then we will see increased student learning and improved student achievement

**Action**
…And apply that meaning to improve systems, programs, and classroom instruction

**Cycle of Inquiry**

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# Leading Others in Data Conversations

## Considerations for Facilitating Data Engagement

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# Facilitating Data Conversations

Onboarding
- Understand your audience
- Documentation

During
- Goal Setting, Context, Agenda
- Engage entire group
- Reflection Time
- Response/Action

Wrapping Up
- Next Steps
- Appreciations

# Where to Look for Data



Some public data sources:
- Illinois Education & Career Success Network Dashboard ([Link](#))

- IL Report Card ([Link](#))

- ILCollege2Career ([Link](#))

- Illinois Postsecondary Profiles ([Link](#))

- *Emerging*: Equity Journey Continuum data ([Link](#))

# Levels of Inquiry

**Observe:** Making observations about numbers (including point-in-time, changes over time, differences across sub groups, etc.)

- What do we see in the data?

**Relate:** Identifying observable connections in the data

- How does this data relate to our experiences and what else we know?

**Infer:** Creating relationships between data and actions, programs, etc. Very compelling, can be challenging to get depending on available data.

- What does this data mean for us?

# Data Protocols

Protocols: A specific way to interact and evaluate data

Before engaging with data using protocols, it is important to ask and answer these questions:
1. What are your goals for engaging with these data?
   - Explanation
   - Shared understanding
   - Informed action
2. What level of inquiry do your questions address?
   - Observe
   - Relate
   - Infer

# Protocols You Might Consider

| Protocol | Description | Suggested Group Size | Takeaways |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Here's What, So What, Now What* | Participants move through simple three-step protocol: "Here's What", observe a data set; "So What", interpret the data and observations; and "Now What", identify next steps in response | Small group (<= 6) | A simple protocol that can be focused or expanded as needed |
| *Placemat* | Participants review disparate data sets individually, then gather around one big "placemat" and share their insights | Small group (<= 6); Large group with small break-outs | Ideal for building understanding of disparate but related data sets |
| *Data Walk* | Participants individually engage with and reflect on outcomes data in poster format, then discuss the data collectively, with the goal of identifying solutions to improve outcomes | Large group, with space for individual reflection | Encourages large groups to reach collective understanding of outcomes, with focus on achievement or equity gaps |
| *ORID* | Participants progress through sequential levels of inquiry: Objective, focused on known data/information; Reflection on that data/information; Interpretation of that data/information; and Decision-making based on that data/information | Small group (<= 6); Large group with small break-outs | A logical progression through levels of inquiry towards informed decision-making |
| *5 Whys* | Participants focus on a particularly problem and iteratively ask and discuss "why" to identify the root cause | Small group (<= 6); Large group with small break-outs | A straightforward problem-solving protocol aimed at identifying root causes |

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# Considerations About Groups

- **Group size**
  - May skip pair-share/ small group discussion if full group is already small
  - Larger group sizes may require more time, larger spaces, and different materials than smaller group sizes (depending on end goal)

- **Group Dynamics**
  - Level of trust
  - Prior experience collaborating
  - Who is at the table (both orgs and level of authority)
  - Prior experience with data

- **# of Facilitators**

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# Facilitating Data Conversations

## How to Facilitate Levels of Inquiry

| Type of Question | Data Gallery Walk example | Placemat Protocol Example |
|---|---|---|
| Objective/ Observing | What are your immediate/ general observations about this data? | What do you objectively observe? |
| Reflection/ Relating | What is the story behind this data? How does it connect to your experience? | What surprised you in the data (and why?) |
| Interpretive/ Inferring | What does this data mean for our organization? | What do you believe the data suggest? What do you infer from the data? |
| Decisional (Response/Action) | What further information would be helpful? What solutions can you think of to address the issues raised by the data? | What questions arise from this analysis (anything that will require further study)? What actions might these data prompt? |

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# Choosing a Protocol Summary

- Set a clear goal for the data review
- Create questions that address different levels of inquiry
- Ensure that all voices and styles of thinking are brought in
- Prepare and share relevant materials
- Document next steps and assign tasks

# Material & Space Considerations

Presentation & Data Engagement Materials
- Slide deck
- Notes (after meeting)
- Data packets
- Individual reflection materials (notepads, templates)
- Group reflection materials (post-its, placemats, Gallery walk posters)
- Pens, pencils, markets

Space
- Seating arrangements (tables, classroom style, open space)
- A/V needs

# Adapting to a Virtual Context

- Explore virtual platforms that can function like "whiteboards" or polls
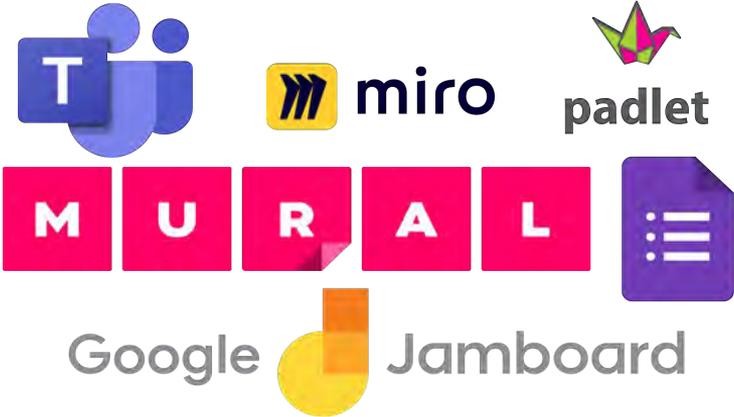


- Where possible, find platforms that tie into existing practices locally
- Could be as simple as sending PDFs of data visuals or tables and hopping on a Zoom to discuss

# Time for Action!

**Protocols in Practice**

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# Activity: Protocol Practice

Review a single data set and reflect on simple prompts individually

Guided reflection on the data through the different levels of inquiry: Observation, Relation, Inference, Action

1. **Here's What.**
   Describe what you see in the data using factual statements.
2. **So What?**
   What are the implications for your community?
3. **Now What?**
   What is one thing you'd do/suggest as a result?
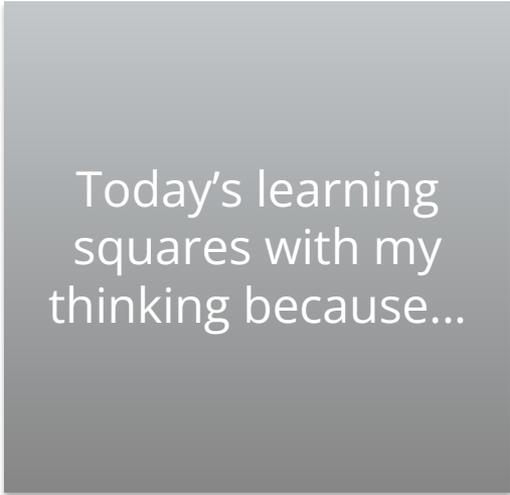
# Activity: Protocol Practice

Open the links below to get started!

- **Data Packet:** https://tinyurl.com/CCE-packet
- **Jamboard:** https://tinyurl.com/CCE-jamboard

# 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…

# Thank you!

## @EdSystemsNIU

**Chelsea Dawkins ([cdawkins@niu.edu](mailto:cdawkins@niu.edu))**

**Emily Rusca ([erusca@niu.edu](mailto:erusca@niu.edu))**

**Protocol Packet:**
https://tinyurl.com/CCE-protocols


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