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STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR DATA IS TELLING YOU!

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STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR DATA IS TELLING YOU!

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Workshop Abstract

Join us for a ride on the Data Train where you will STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN to what your data is telling you and use the information to develop a process of continuous improvement in your afterschool program to be an effective co-collaborator of closing the achievement gap. This workshop will provide information and strategies to be used in K – 12.

Workshop Description

The use of data to drive instruction has been a crucial part of education for the past several decades. It has become common practice among educational practitioners to use data for the purposes of assess student learning, teacher performance, and school performance for a cycle of continuance improvement. Now, with the increase of out-of-school support being provided to student's, afterschool programs must be intentional in using data to drive the support they provide to students through their program as a support to the day-school learning environment. Afterschool programs should use data to set program goals and expected outcomes, provide guidance for best practices to use with students and staff, to assist with recruitment, retention, supervision of the program, and to create a process for continuance improvement which will support regular school day efforts in closing the achievement gap for students who are at risk.

According to a MetLife Foundation Afterschool Alert in August of 2014 which discussed the use of data in afterschool programs, they stated,

It is an indicator, or indicators, that programs can use to improve their understanding of how well their offerings are being implement and what their impact is. It allows programs to identify what their strengths are and where changes need to be made. (p. 1 – 2)

Afterschool program that collect data then have the opportunity to review and analyze their data, which in turn can help a program determine if it is carrying out activities and services in the way that was intended...Additionally, data collection and analysis can help demonstrate to their community, potential funders, and policy makers that they are making a difference in their students lives. (p. 2)

In this workshop, participants will discuss best practices in data analysis which will include, working with school to determine which sources of data should be analyzed, how to use data analysis for program improvement, recruitment, retention, supervision, and

evaluation, as well as set data goals for their own programs and develop their own process of continuous improvement.

Through this session, participants will learn that data analysis is used by everyone and not just evaluators and researchers. This workshop will utilize hands on practice where participants will be provided with samples of student data and they will go through the process of evaluating data, developing an action plan, and implementing a process of continuous improvement. This process will be completed through collaborative planning and small group conversations so that each participant has an opportunity to learn from their fellow peers in the workshop. From this workshop, participants will create a data analysis and evaluation take-away to utilize for their respective programs and begin a process of continuous improvement within their own programs.

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to explain the importance of using data for continuous improvement; how to collaborate with the day school to determine which data measures to use and understand how to develop a process of continuous improvement utilizing data.

As also stated in the MetLife Foundation Afterschool Alert from August 2014,

Therefore, it is critical that programs have a clear and focused set of goals, gather and synthesize data that are connected to those goals, and implement a continuous improvement cycle that uses the data in order to build on lessons learned and ensure that they are providing their students with the supports they need. (p. 7).

Participants will leave the session having connected the dots to data-based decision making.

Workshop Objectives*

1. Participants will learn the importance of data analysis in afterschool.
2. Participants will learn how to work with regular day school professionals in determining what data sources to use.
3. Participants will be able to analyze sample data and develop an action plan.
4. Participants will develop a process of continuous improvement which utilizes student data.

Workshop Outline*

Workshop Outline – Describe training techniques and activities planned.

The workshop will utilize an opening engaging activity to energize the session. Through out the workshop, presenters will use connecting, brainstorming, practical application, and action planning with the participants to keep them connected to the topic and provide them with a take-away from the session.

Reference

Looking at the Data: Afterschool Programs Using Data to Better Serve Students. (2014, August). *MetLife Foundation Afterschool Alert*, 66, 1-9. Retrieved May 26, 2018, from http://afterschoolalliance.org/issue_briefs/issue_using_data_66.pdf