5 Tips for Productive Data Conversations

Vital conversations around data should constantly take place across schools at every level. Here are some tips to ensure your school is set up for success when it comes to utilizing data.

Points to Consider

Analyze data trends across classes, grades, and departments to highlight successes and growth areas.

Foster a culture of continuous improvement through open and honest dialogue regarding challenges, achievements, and best practices.

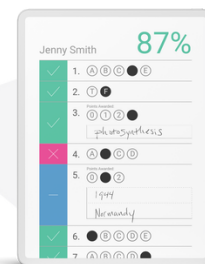Set clear data expectations and provide focused collaboration time for solution-oriented discussions.

Streamline processes and minimize unnecessary paperwork for data-driven instruction.

Connect data analysis directly to instructional strategies and allow room for experimentation.

Assessment Made Easy

Questions to Consider Based on Your Role

✓ For Administrators to Contemplate:

- Who is responsible for leading and supporting data initiatives at your school?

- What organizational structures and programs are currently in place to help teachers effectively use data? What is missing?

- Are your goals set at the school level or provided by the district? How does that affect how you approach these goals?

✓ For Instructional Leaders to Ask Teachers:

- What strategy did you use in that instance? Looking at the data, how effective do you think that strategy was? If you were to reteach this, what else might you try?

- Why do you think your approach worked or didn't work?

- Is there another approach that may have reached more students?

✓ For Teachers to Ask Students:

- What evidence or clues from the question and/or answer choices could be used to help find the expected answer?

- What strategy could you try to find the answer next time?

- What patterns do you notice?