

Data-Driven Back to School Priorities for District and School Leaders

State tests and other data systems were mostly put on pause in spring 2020. Principals and superintendents must reassess data they would normally use to shape the school year. After an inconsistent spring and summer of distance learning, how can leaders prioritize equity using data?



MAKE CONTACT

Use spring engagement data to reach students and families who were not engaged, recognizing mobility might be greater than normal. Reach out via phone, text, email, home visits, and social media.



TARGET TEACHING

Even without typical data, schools have a good idea of who is likely to be behind: students who were below grade level before the pandemic, and students disengaged during the spring.

Immediately target those students for extra supports, such as one-on-one tutoring, whether virtual or in person.



SUBSTITUTE DATA SOURCES

Use short-turnaround data, like formative assessments, to group students and create instructional plans.

Identify new or adapted data sources that could substitute for data sources that are missing, or less robust than usual. See below for details.

Substituting Data for Fall 2020 for District and School Leaders

If trying to measure...	Instead of...	Consider/Adapt...
Student and Subgroup Performance and Progress	State tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum-embedded assessments Interim/benchmark assessments aligned to state standards State diagnostic tests (where available)
Student Attendance and Engagement	Chronic absenteeism, instructional time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 contact points with students and families Logins/engagement with learning software Assignment completion
School Culture and Climate	Discipline rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student access to learning devices and high-speed internet Parent, student, and teacher surveys Assignment completion
Equity for Students with Special Needs	Typical English learner and special education compliance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of EL plans, IEPs, and other applicable individual learning plans modified or adapted for learning and service delivery under different re-opening scenarios