



The Center
FOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT

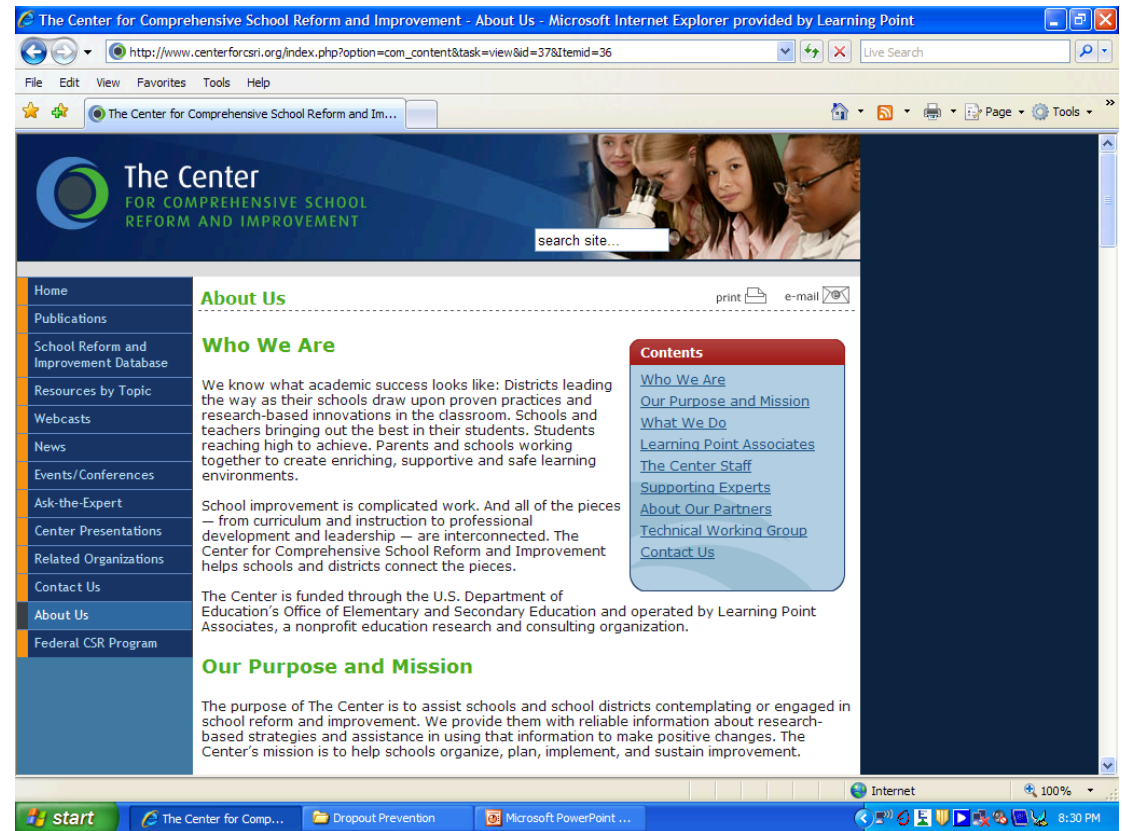
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Effective Data Use for Reducing Native Student Dropout

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The Center for
Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement

What Is The Center?

- The Center is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Our mission is to help schools and districts organize, plan, implement, and sustain improvement.
- All materials are research based.
- All services are provided at no cost and materials are in the public domain.



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Objectives

- Identify **four types of data** to inform decision making.
- Gain insight into relevant data for **reducing** student **dropout**.
- Discover **free resources** available through The Center.
- Acquire new ideas, practices, tools, or contacts to **share with colleagues** and implement at home.

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement. The browser window title is "The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement - Home - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Learning Point Asso". The address bar shows "http://www.centerforcsri.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1". The website features a navigation menu on the left with items like Home, Publications, School Reform and Improvement Database, Resources by Topic, Webcasts, News, Events/Conferences, Ask the Expert, Center Presentations, Related Organizations, Contact Us, About Us, and Federal CSR Program. The main content area includes a "FREE RESOURCES" section with a "Resources by Topic" link, a "Featured Topic: Central Office Reform" section with links to a webcast and research brief, and a "RESOURCE SHOWCASE" section with links to a newsletter, research brief, and guide. A "Subscribe to e-publications" button is also visible.



Question:

What kinds of challenges have you experienced in examining your data on Native student outcomes and using the data to improve outcomes?

Common Challenges

- Access to appropriate data
- Lack of sufficient training to access data
- Receiving data in a timely manner
- Making data meaningful
- Finding time to analyze data
- Allowing the data to “speak”
- Identifying time and expertise to make necessary changes in practice



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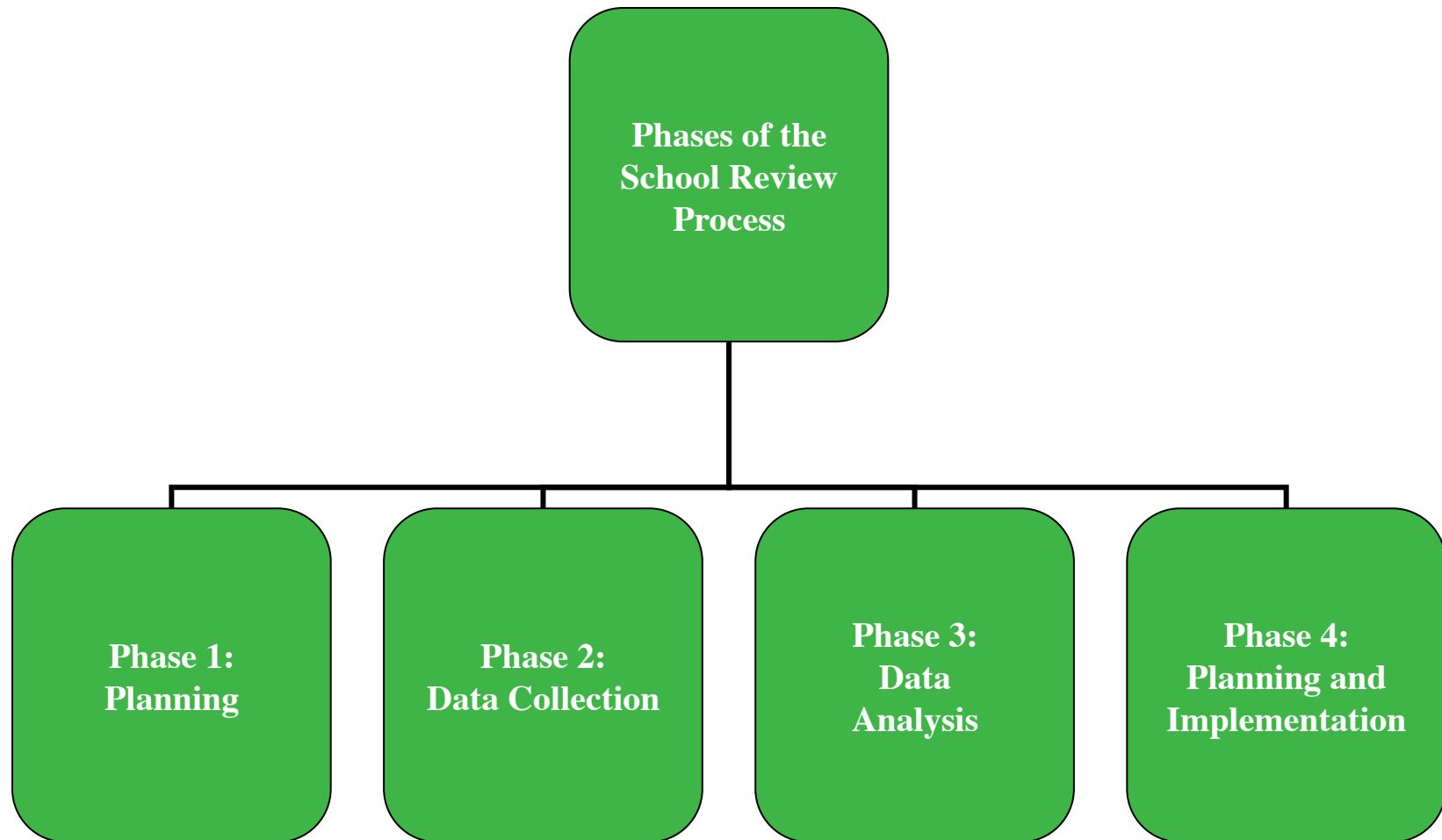
Effective Data Use: Planning for Program Improvement



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Phases of the School Review Process



Subgroup Performance

- “Just as high achievement reflects a school’s health and vitality, poor student performance is symptomatic of school issues that need to be addressed.”
- Student performance is an outcome—not a cause of school success or failure.
- Good practice for Native students is good educational practice in general—all students benefit.

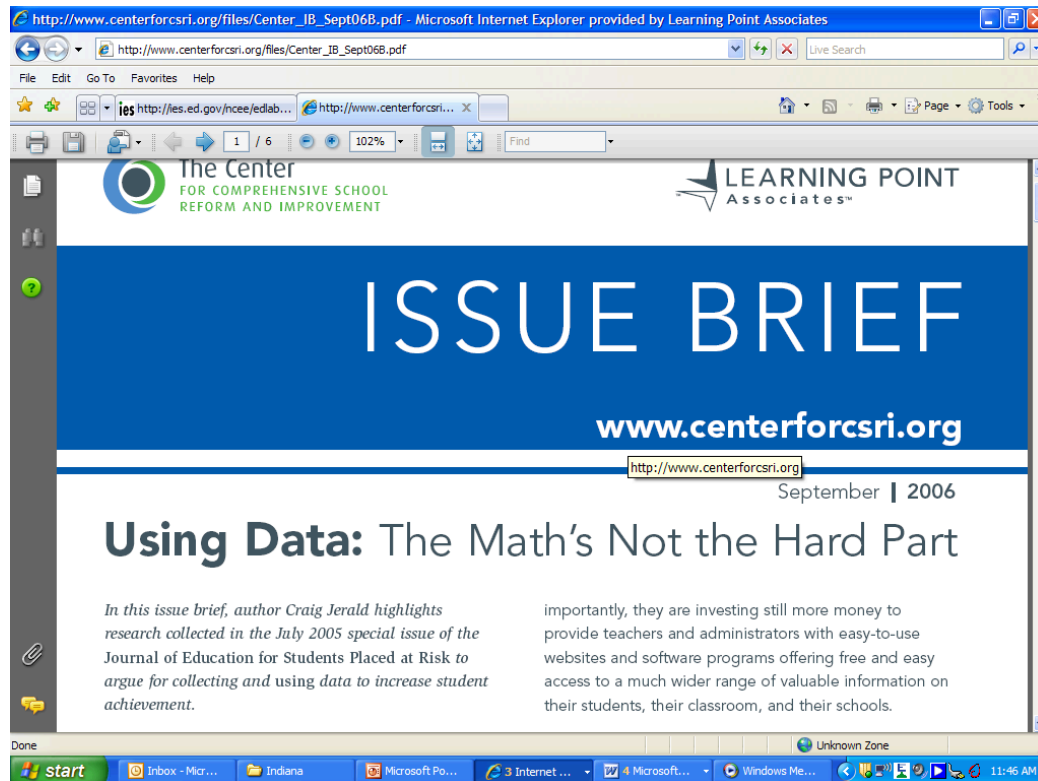


Start With the End in Mind



- Step 1: Clarify goals.
- Step 2: Create evaluation questions.
- Step 3: Identify needed data and how to collect them.
- Step 4: Analyze and interpret data.
- Step 5: Use the results.

Reflect, Plan, and Take Action



- Provide ongoing opportunities to review timely data.
- Strengthen feedback loops.
- Address fears and encourage self-reflection.
- Make adjustments to practice.



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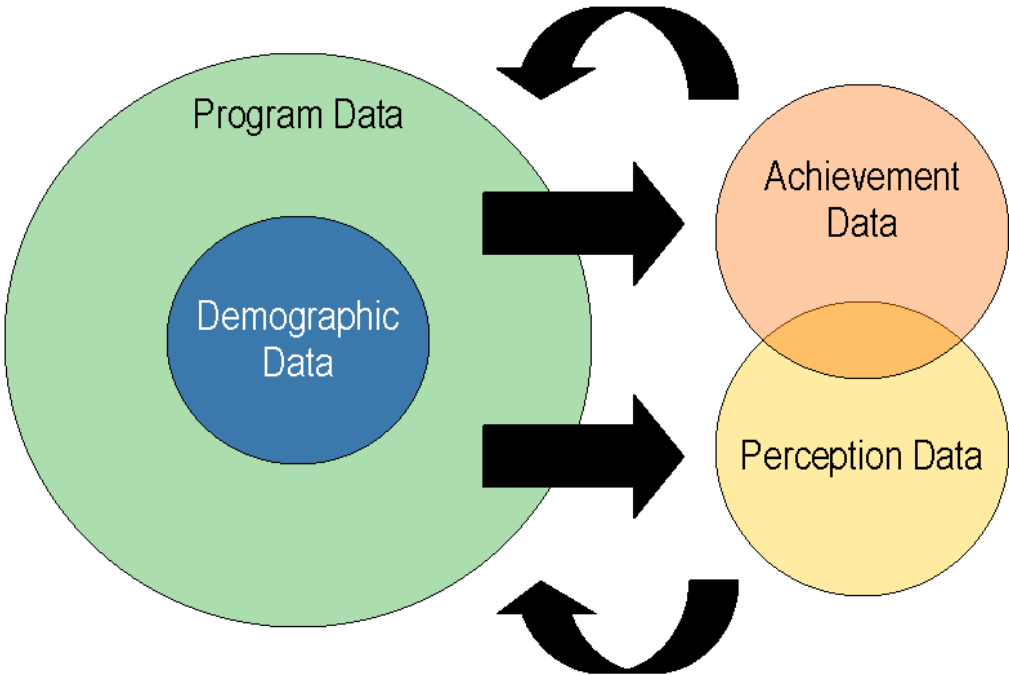
Effective Date Use: Four Types of Data



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Four Data Types





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Effective Data Use: The Research Base

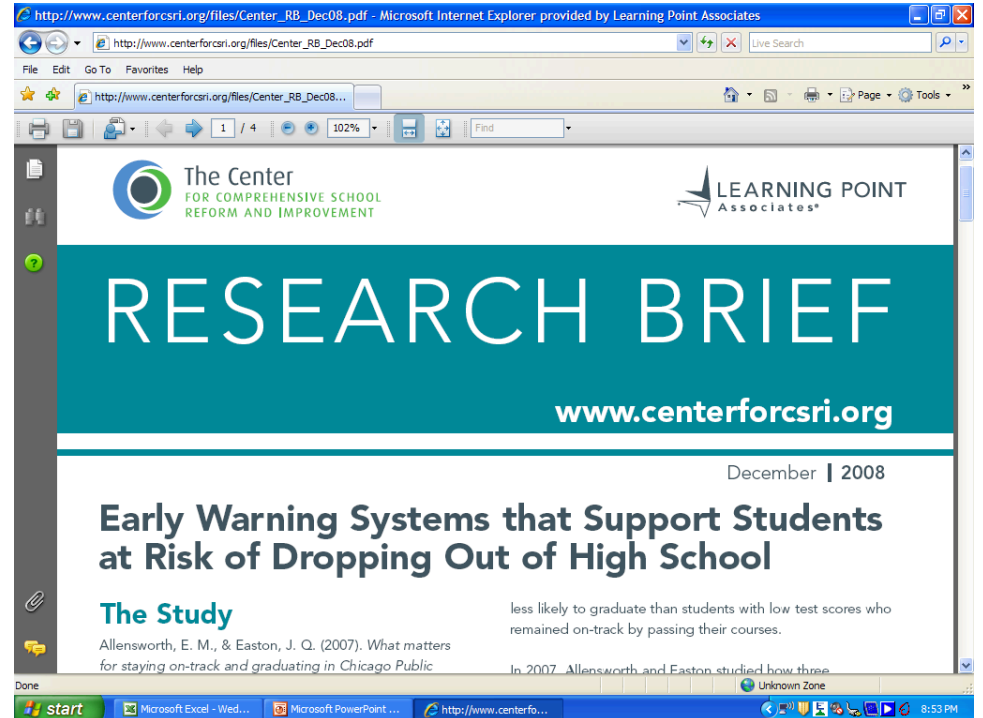
What Indicators Predict Student Dropouts?

Targeting Students for Dropout Prevention Efforts

- Several longitudinal, scientifically researched studies
- Risk factors—pros and cons
 - No single factor will accurately predict which students are at-risk.
 - The accuracy of predictions increases when combinations of risk factors are used.
- Continual monitoring
 - Dropping out is a “process,” not an event.
 - Middle grades and transitions are significant.

Data for Predicting Student Dropout

- Longitudinal, quantitative study
- 2005 on-track indicator
 - Freshmen
 - Credits earned
 - Course failure in core courses
 - More predictive than test scores



Source: *What Matters for Staying On-Track and Graduating in Chicago Public Schools* by Elaine Allensworth & John Easton. Published in 2007 by the Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Data for Predicting Student Dropout

➤ Allensworth and Easton study (2007)

- Additional indicators:
 - Course failure
 - Overall grade point average
 - Attendance
- Earlier, more targeted interventions
- Also examined:
 - Student and school-level factors (study behavior, gender)
 - Relationship between climate and attendance

Source: *What Matters for Staying On-Track and Graduating in Chicago Public Schools*.

Data for Predicting Student Dropout

- Allensworth and Easton study (2007)
- Climate indicators influencing academic success:
 - Strong teacher-student relationships
 - Personal support from teachers
 - Schoolwide emphasis on preparation for future
 - Peer support for academic achievement
 - Effective teacher collaboration

Source: *What Matters for Staying On-Track and Graduating in Chicago Public Schools.*

Other “Leading Indicators”

- Foley et al. Annenberg Institute for School Reform study (2008)
 - Early reading proficiency
 - Enrollment in pre-algebra and algebra
 - Overage / undercredited
 - Discipline (i.e., suspensions)
 - Student engagement

Source: *Beyond Test Scores: Leading Indicators for Education* by Ellen Foley, Jacob Mishook, Joanne Thompson, Michael Kubiak, Jonathan Supovitz, & MaryKaye Rhude-Faust. Published in 2008 by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform.

Research Involving Native Youth

- Much demographic and trend data through national collection efforts
- Several case studies, survey and focus group data
 - Individual (self-esteem, substance abuse, etc.)
 - Family (socioeconomics, educational attainment, etc.)
 - School factors (cultural discontinuity, engagement, etc.)
- Calculating Native student dropout rate
 - Examine formula.
 - Many Native youth leave school prior to Grade 10.
- Diversity of cultures and experiences

Research Involving Native Youth

- Factors contributing to Native student dropout
 - Individual
 - Lack of basic skills
 - Low grades
 - Low self-esteem
 - Family
 - Multiple school transfers
 - Problems in the home (substance abuse, child abuse, etc.)
 - Mother dropped out of school
 - Single parent families
 - Home support for education

Sources: "The American Indian Female Dropout" by Ardy Bowker. Published in 1992 in *Journal of American Indian Education*.

"High-School Dropout Among Native Americans" by Theodore Coladarci. Published in 1983 in *Journal of American Indian Education*.

"Dropping Out Among American Indians and Alaska Natives: A Review of Studies" by Karen Swisher & Michelle Hoisch. Published in 1992 in *Journal of American Indian Education*.

Research Involving Native Youth

- Factors contributing to Native student dropout
 - School level
 - Boredom with school (engagement)
 - Relevance of curriculum/education to life (cultural and situational)
 - Perception of fair treatment
 - Teacher-student relationships (caring, cultural sensitivity and respect, disagreements, etc.)
 - Native role models

Sources: "The American Indian Female Dropout"
"High-School Dropout Among Native Americans"
"Dropping Out Among American Indians and Alaska Natives: A Review of Studies"

Perspectives of Native Parents

- Regional Educational Laboratory Central Study
 - Examines American Indian perspectives in the Central region on parent involvement in their child's education
- Similar perspectives
 - "Many aspects of American Indian parent involvement were largely consistent with the literature on parent involvement in the general population as well as in other minority cultures." (Mackety & Linder-VanBerschot, p. v)
- Unique perspectives
 - Parent-school differences in values
 - Communication styles
 - Perception of cultural competency in the *staff and curricula*
 - American Indian educational policies of coercive assimilation that continues to influence parents (Mackety & Linder-VanBerschot, p. v)

Source: *Examining American Indian Perspectives in the Central Region on parent involvement in children's education* by Dawn M. Mackety & Jennifer A. Linder-VanBerschot. Published in 2008 by REL Central.



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Closing Thoughts



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Closing Thoughts

➤ An Anishinaabe Medicine Wheel Perspective

- 4 colors
- 4 seasons
- 4 phases of life
- 4 aspects of life



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