

Continuous Improvement Webinar Series

How to Interpret WSIF Data

Data tells the story of how students are doing, where gaps exist, and what changes are needed to help every student succeed. By looking at data, schools can find trends, spot inequities, and make decisions that support students. Interpreting data is not just a task; it is a step toward fairness and success in education.

The Importance of Data Interpretation

- Spot Trends: See where your school is doing well and where challenges exist.
- Close Gaps: Find differences in attendance, test scores, or graduation rates for certain student groups.
- Target Resources: Send help and funding to areas where they are most needed.
- Drive Change: Use data to set clear, actionable goals for improvement.
- How to Start Interpreting Data as a School Team

Step 1: Create a Shared Vision

Align your team's goals with equity. Use tools like the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) to identify barriers and plan changes. Discuss how data can guide your team to better outcomes for all students.

Step 2: Access the Right Data

Visit the OSPI Data Portal or Report Card to find key datasets like the Washington School Improvement Framework (WSIF).

- Filter data for important details:
 - School Code
 - Student Group (e.g., English learners, special education)
 - WSIF Scores and Cycle Tiers

Export the data as a .csv file for analysis.

Step 3: Organize and Clean the Data

- Check for Errors: Look for missing or inconsistent values.
- Standardize Formats: Make sure names and labels match.
- Add Analysis Columns:
 - Score Change: Use a formula to calculate changes (e.g., =2023_Score - 2022_Score).



- Helper Column: Combine fields like School Code and Student Group to create unique IDs for comparisons.

Step 4: Look for Patterns

Compare scores across years to find improvements or declines. Use Excel's Conditional Formatting to highlight trends (e.g., green for growth, red for decline). Break data into subgroups to find inequities. For example, are certain groups missing more school or scoring lower on tests?

Step 5: Visualize and Share Findings

Use bar charts or scatter plots to show trends and gaps.

Highlight key takeaways:

- What is the school doing well?
- Which groups or metrics need support?
- Make visuals simple and easy to understand.

Why This Work Matters

Looking at data helps schools make choices that improve outcomes. It is not just about numbers—it's about understanding the students behind the numbers and making sure they all have the chance to succeed. By following these steps, your team can use data as a powerful tool for fairness and success.