Aspire in a Data-Driven World

Program Puzzler

In addition to the funds your Aspire program receives from the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR), the program also has funding from your fiscal agent and a local foundation. In addition to data reporting to OBR, the other funders expect program data quarterly.

Peer Perspective

Timely Tips

ABLELink reports can be customized based on need. Understanding the funders' expectations for data reporting will help in determining the data to be collected and shared.

Data in Context

- Review the reporting requirements you must follow.
    - o What are the accountability expectations?
    - o Are you asked to report a balance of facts and anecdotes?
    - o How will you examine and report on your program's performance?

Data Sources and Questions

- Needs assessment
    - o Why are we doing this program?
    - o Obtain data from community planning and funding agencies and public systems (for example, Department of Education, Department of Job and Family Services, Census Bureau).

- Process Accountabilities
    - o Are we doing what we said we would do?
    - o Collect data on number of classes taught, number of individuals participating in program, number of classes attended, number of contact hours, etc.

- Program Quality Accountabilities
    - o Are we doing it in a quality way?
    - o Collect data regarding accessibility of program, safety, delivery of instruction, etc.
    - o Use participant satisfaction surveys.
    - o Ask participants how they utilize your program's services.

- Outcome Accountabilities
    - o Are we making a difference to participants?
    - o Collect data regarding gains in knowledge, acquisition of skills, attitude changes, etc.
    - o Consider assessments, pre/posttests, and changes (increases or decreases) in standardized test scores and other informal assessments.

Data Use

- Be sure to plan a strategy that links data to key discussions and decisions along the planning-implementation-evaluation continuum.
- Plan for "who needs what, when, and in what format."
- Use simple graphic summaries of your data.
- Work with stakeholders to identify data use preferences.

Added Insights

– U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Measuring Outcomes-A comprehensive guide for organizations interested in improving their procedures for measuring outcomes. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ccf/ccf resources/measuring_outcomes01.html

– Institute for Educational Leadership

– Toolkit# 4 Using Data Effectively: A Toolkit for Practical Strategies
This toolkit is designed to provide ideas and linkages to other resources that will increase the capacity of demonstration projects engaged in systemic reform efforts to use data in a manner that allows them to accurately assess their needs, design and implement appropriate interventions, and monitor their progress and outcomes. It offers case study examples and a variety of tools communities may want to use as part of their strategic planning process and ultimately, to improve outcomes by enhancing the quality of critical decisions about programs and services.
http://www.iel.org/pubs/sittap/toolkit_04.pdf

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Aspire