

Handout: Data Need Scenarios

A. Consider various methods of collecting data to support decision making.

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observations
- Access existing data

B. Discuss which method (or combination of methods) would be appropriate for each scenario.

1. The Division for Learning Supports wants to understand the mobility patterns of special education teachers within Wisconsin (i.e., how long special education teachers stay within a school, within a district, and within the state).
2. The Division for Academic Excellence wants to know how often middle school mathematics teachers across the state assign homework and how much time these teachers expect students to spend on their homework. The team wants to be able to describe how districts differ in these practices.
3. An Educator Effectiveness Team wants to develop materials for districts with guidance on providing effective supports for first-year teachers aimed at reducing attrition. To inform the guidance, the division wants to get a better understanding of the most critical challenges first-year teachers face.
4. An Educator Effectiveness Team wants to understand the perspectives and experiences of teachers who received the lowest evaluation ratings.

5. The Division for Student and School Success wants to conduct a study that examines Priority School third-grade reading teachers' teacher-student interactions (beyond current teacher evaluation data), and look at how these relate to student achievement growth.

6. The Division for Librarians and Technology wants to gather feedback from school librarians on a recent training to understand if the goals of the training were met and assess need for subsequent trainings.

C. Think about a survey your division has conducted. Which alternative data collection method could augment or replace the survey?