Handout: Data Need Scenarios

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

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

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

1. The Division for Special Education Services wants to understand the mobility patterns of special education teachers within Illinois (i.e., how long special education teachers stay within a school, within a district, and within the state).

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. The office of Educational Technology wants to know what community partners have been working with schools in the Competency Based Education Pilot program and how those community partners have been engaging with participating schools.

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