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 Lakes Country Special Programs team wants to understand the mobility patterns of special education students (i.e., how long special education teachers stay within a school, within a district, and within the state).

2. The LCSC administrative team wants to develop materials for cooperative schools 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 Career and Technical Education team created and hosted an event that brought students and local businesses together for presentations of student developed business plans and would like to know if the event was well received and what improvements it could make for future events.

4. LCSC has funded three grants through the Community Changemakers Grant Program, all of which are designed to help communities become more adept at welcoming and engaging with diverse populations. It has been a year since funding and the LCSC wants to know if the grant programs are reaching the goals outlined in their applications.

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