

What do the data tell you?

Adapted from Ruth Johnson, (2002). *Using Data to Close the Achievement Gap*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. P. 77.

Several questions to consider when looking at data....

- 1 What is the **nature or type of data** examined?
- 2 How is the **data described and reported**?
 - a. How is the **data measured and reported**?
 - b. How is the **level** of performance or progress **determined and reported**?
- 3 Are there **multiple components** performing or being examined? If so,
 - a. How do the different parts perform?
 - b. Do different parts perform differently? If so,
 - i. Are some groups meeting target goals or expectations in behaviors, achievement, quality or so forth – and some not, or not as well?
 - ii. Patterns of performance by those individuals or groups – i.e., by those meeting / not meeting an expectation or determined cut score or at points along a continuum.
 - iii. If so – how might the results be described?
- 4 What don't the data tell us?
- 5 What other data do we need?
- 6 What other sources of data [information] might we look at? i.e.
 - a. With what other groups might we need to talk?
 - b. What other data sources might we want to consult or reference?
- 7 What are the implications for...
 - a. How we understand and thus report the data?
 - b. and how that understanding and reporting frames the issue(s) to be addressed?
 - c. Uncovering – making explicit - the assumptions we bring to our examination, understanding, and interpretation of the data - and thus our understanding and framing of the issue?
 - d. How we define the problem to be addressed and “solved.”...and
 - e. How we view and discuss our roles and relationships to the issue(s) and the problem(s) we have identified or defined Developing or revising policies?
 - f. How those frames and understandings affect our efforts related to developing or revising strategies or behaviors - Our own or others'?
 - g. Those strategies and behaviors one might employ (these might include):
 - i. Reading literature?
 - ii. Visiting other schools?
 - iii. Revising, eliminating, adding programs
 - iv. Dialoguing with experts, consultants, other practitioners, others? Who?
 - v. Professional development
8. How do we share and present the data to various audiences...?
(How we understand the data and our relationship to the data influences how we present the data ... And how we present the data influences how others understand and consider the data...)