Using Data: A Simple Approach

Step 1: Observe

a. Look at the data with your colleagues.

b. Make objective statements about the data. Avoid statements like, “It seems...” or “I think...”

c. What do you notice?

Step 2: Discuss

a. Talk with your colleagues.

b. Why do you think the data might look this way? Hypothesize.

Step 3: Action Steps

a. What are some other sources that could confirm or refute this data?

b. What does the data mean for my school regarding curriculum and instruction?

c. How can I dig deeper?

Step 4: Reflect

a. What did you learn from this activity?

b. Are there new things you’d like to bring back to your school?

Disclaimer:

*Major programmatic changes should not be made based on one assessment administration. Look to other sources of data to confirm or refute your findings before making decisions.

Adapted from N. Love (2002) and National School Reform Faculty: ATLAS protocol (2000)