SFUSD SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

How Do Schools Use Data?
Helpful Information for Families

Data is individual facts, statistics, or items of information that educators use for reference or analysis. Educators use many types of data to make decisions and inform instruction. They include:

- **Student Performance Data** – for example: state testing results such as the CST or CELDT, student grades, student performance on class assignments

- **Demographics**– for example: race and ethnicity, home language, attendance

- **Program Participation** – for example: students receiving special-education services or English Language Development instruction, students in the Gifted and Talented Program (GATE) or after-school programs, etc.

Confidentiality: In order to protect the confidentiality of students, *only SFUSD staff* have direct access to student information in DataDirector. Parents and caregivers have the right to view information collected on their child(ren). If you would like to review your child's information, ask an SFUSD teacher, counselor or principal to print out a **Student Profile Report**.

Assessment is the process of understanding what information students know and don't know and what academic skills they can and can't do. Educators, parents and students to use assessment information to understand how well students are learning. Assessment happens at manylevels:

- **Classroom** – for example **class projects, writing assignments or tests.**

- **District** – for example **student grades, district assessments such as the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment (F&P) and Common Learning Assessments (CLA)**

- **State** – for example **tests such as the CST , CELDT, CAHSEE.**

How do educators get data?

One way educators in SFUSD review student data is by using **DataDirector**, an online data management tool that stores and organizes a range of data that we have about students.
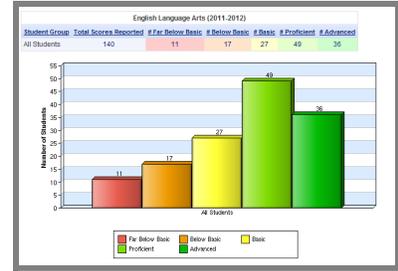
Educators also receive helpful reports from the district departments. For example, the DataDisk, produced by the Achievement Assessment Office, includes state assessment data, attendance and school survey results in helpful spreadsheets, graphs and presentations.

DataDirector™

DATA DIRECTOR™
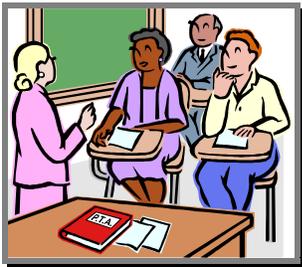Turning Information into Achievement™

How can educators use data to make decisions and plan instruction?

- **Principals** can use CST reports to make decisions regarding budgeting. He or she may decided to purchase more resources such as books or hire more staff to support specific student groups such as extra-teachers, literacy coaches or para-professionals to assist with school programs.

- **Teachers** can see how students have performed on Common Learning Assessments (CLA) to understand which students need help in learning standards which he or she has taught.

How can parents use data to support student learning?

- **Parents** can request their child's **Student Profile Report** to track progress from year to year on standardized tests such as the CST and CELDT.

- The **English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)** can review student performance on the CELDT to understand how many students are advancing in their proficiency of English from year to year.

- The **School Site Council (SSC)** can use reports provided by the District (the Data Disk) or created on DataDirector to understand more about student demographic groups (e.g. What is the percentage of English Learners in the school? What percentages of students are scoring proficient vs. not-proficient on the CST?)

Things you can do!

➔ **Ask you child's teacher** to review student assessment data with you. You teacher can print out a **Student Profile Report** to view your child's performance on the CELDT and CST which can be a good indicator of academic performance. CLA results can also help you understand how well your child is mastering state standards

➔ **Help your child** do well on assessments. Make sure he or she iswell rested and fed on testing days. Encourage your child to do his or her best work and talk about the important information we gather by reviewing assessment results.

➔ **Get involved** in your school's parent committees such as the School Site Council (SSC) and English Language Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). Volunteer to serve on the board and/or attend parent meetings and ask questions of school staff about how students are performing on various assessments given to students at your school.

Questions? Talk to your child's teacher, counselor or principal for more information. Or, call the Achievement Assessments Office at 415-241-6400.