Category

Data & AI

Data Literacy for Education Leaders & School Administration Playbook

Reading achievement data well enough to know if a program worked or just coincided with a good year

- Practitioner
- Intermediate
- Template Included

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- 4 minute(s)

Overview

A framework for building data literacy within education leadership and school administration — cohort comparison rigor, distinguishing program effects from demographic or cohort variation, and appropriately weighing standardized assessment data against its known limitations.

Standardized test scores seem like an objective measure of program

effectiveness — what's the data literacy concern? Standardized scores are influenced by many factors beyond any specific program — cohort demographic differences, natural year-to-year variation, and concurrent changes — genuine literacy means accounting for these before attributing a score change to a specific program.

What's the most common data literacy gap specifically in

evaluating school-level programs? Comparing this year's cohort to last year's cohort as if they were the same population, without accounting for genuine demographic or preparation differences between the two different groups of students.

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