

Asking Questions of Student Data

Evaluating this data creates knowledge through comparisons, relationships, patterns and trends, and it reveals inequities. Below is a list of questions to ask during the analysis process. Asking these questions can assist data teams with gaining an understanding of students who are both on-track and off-track for high school graduation and college persistence. For more information, see the IDRA Newsletter article, "Community and School Use of Data for College Readiness and Postsecondary Success," by Karmen Rouland, Ph.D., Susan Shaffer and Phoebe Schlanger (June-July 2017) at <http://budurl.com/IDRAjj17a>.

- 1. What are the attendance patterns for subgroups of students?**
- 2. What is the data trend for course-taking disaggregated by student subgroups?**
- 3. Which groups of students are promoted to the next grade level, and which groups of students are not?**
- 4. Are students college and career ready?**
- 5. What college-going behaviors are students engaging in?**
 - Have they completed the FAFSA?
 - Have they gone on college tours?
 - Have they applied to colleges?
 - Which type of colleges have they applied to (two-year; four-year)?
 - Have they taken any standardized assessment, such as the PSAT, SAT or ACT?
- 6. What supports do schools have in place to address the issue of college-going and completion?**
- 7. What policies and practices are in place to support student learning and college-going?**
 - What are the criteria for honors courses/AP courses entry?
 - What are the discipline policies according to the student code of conduct?
 - What is the attendance policy?
 - What is the climate and culture of the school? What are student and parent perceptions of the school climate?
 - What policies do you have in place to support non-traditional methods to earn credits toward graduation (such as service learning hours and dual enrollment)?
- 8. Which students are going to college and are they continuing to enroll?**



IDRA EAC-South

For information about the IDRA EAC-South or to request technical assistance, contact us at 210-444-1710 or eacsouth@idra.org. Additional resources are available online at <http://www.idra.org/eac-south/>. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

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