Building a Culture of Data Use with a Focus on Equity

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Session Description

Join this interactive session to explore strategies and resources for building a culture of data use with a focus on equity. We will examine how a strong data use culture can enable programs to effectively use data to ask and answer questions focused on the goal of advancing equity in early childhood special education. This session will define elements of a strong data use culture, examine what it means to be a data leader, explore how to effectively engage diverse stakeholders, and provide resources to help participants assess and improve their data use culture. This session was presented by the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy Center).

Critical Information

- Data are not objective or neutral; people bring to their work their subjective experiences, lived experiences, and potential biases
- Data use culture should be embedded in all aspects of a program or organization
- Building a data use culture that focuses on equity will involve honest conversations, openness to shifting mindsets and practices, and ongoing reassessment
- Prioritizing <u>meaningful</u> stakeholder engagement throughout each stage of the data use cycle is critical to promoting equity

Resources and/or References

- DaSy Center Data Culture Toolkit
- DaSy Center Stakeholder Knowledge Toolkit
- DaSy Critical Questions about Early Intervention & Early Childhood Special Education
- DaSy Center/ECTA Leadership Series – Session 4 "Data Leadership: What it Means for Equity"