

DaSy Data Culture Toolkit

- The toolkit contains information, guidance, and templates to help early intervention and early childhood special education program staff build effective data teams and support conditions for a culture of data use at state and local levels.
- It is organized around key steps to building a culture of data use for state or local teams.
- Each step includes an overview, considerations, and resources (e.g., videos, infographics, templates) with tips for how to use them.
- Agencies using these tools will be able to increase the participation and focus of their data teams and review and improve data quality and the processes used to gather, monitor, analyze, and use data.

Data Culture

- Strong data culture results when an organization believes in continuous improvement and regularly puts that belief into practice.
- State and local programs that have strong data cultures emphasize collaboration as a keystone for success and empower providers, teachers, and administrators to make decisions for which they will be held accountable.
- Elements of a strong data culture include commitment, vision, beliefs, accountability, collaboration, modeling, and commitment to ongoing instructional and programmatic improvements.

Assess Your Data Use Culture

- Data-informed decision-making requires a clear, concrete, and consistent approach.
- Many well-known models exist, such as the *Plan, Do, Study, and Act* process or the *Data Wise* process.

An effective, sustainable culture of data use requires

- a clear, data-informed decision-making process,
- strategies to identify and overcome barriers in using the data, and
- regular reflection about adherence to the process.

Common barriers to establishing a culture of data use fall into three categories: *cultural, political, and technical*

- **Cultural barriers** involve any individual or group culture bias which can exert a strong influence on how people make decisions and what information they find meaningful.
- **Political barriers** exist when data use is politically motivated, potentially leading to mistrust and avoidance of the data.
- **Technical barriers** exist when data use is hampered by the availability of measurement tools, time, and/or expertise.



Assess & Improve Data Quality

- What standardized state data procedures have been developed, documented, and routinely implemented to address data quality?
- What standardized local agency data procedures for collecting and entering data have been developed for data entry, data entry qualifications, timelines for data entry, and data entry checks?
- What state or local data governance structure and procedures are in place to support Part C or Part B 619 data quality?
- How do state or local staff assess data quality issues? How do they know what to look for, how to assess data quality, and how to improve data processes?
- How do local staff collaborate with the state staff to clean and edit data? Who, how, and when do local staff review and edit the submitted data?
- What is the state or local staff capacity to recognize, understand, collect, and use the data?

See more information and additional data quality questions to consider on the DaSy Data Culture Toolkit: <https://dasycenter.org/data-culture-toolkit/>