

Position paper on Assignment #5: A Tale of Two Schools' Data

by Beverly Parsons

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Professor Jonathan Hughes

Of the Division of

ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Of

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Oakdale, N.Y

by

Denise Smith

A Tale of Two Schools' Data

This article gives a wonderful comparison of the actions taken by two different schools in an effort to raise the achievement levels. The author compares two teachers teaching in two different school districts who have been leading parallel teaching lives. They both teach mathematics in schools of similar size, ethnic composition, and socioeconomic demographics. Joseph's achievement report includes three pieces of information: math scores for his students, district data about average student scores disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, and the community's socioeconomic status as well as next year's target scores for student achievement in math for his school. Zindzi's student achievement report contains the same three items as Joseph's but her district organizes the classroom scores by how fully teachers say they have been able to implement certain new instructional practice. The concept of implementing three levels of instructional practices is feasible and beneficial. The three levels of "getting acquainted," partial implementation," and "full implementation" are systematic. The article discusses what steps Joseph's district took including making an initial diagnosis, setting a goal and then leaving it up to the individual teachers to figure out how to reach them, giving little guidance. Zindi's district, on the other hand, also made a diagnosis and set a goal but decided to change their planning processes to better connect instruction with other aspects. Her district realized that their usual system lost momentum and therefore created a new system. The creation of an action team and evaluative inquiry team allowed drawing talent from everyone's knowledge, skills, and interest.

The rubric provided is a wonderful resource for the implementation of the level discussed in the article. It breaks the process into Level 1 – getting acquainted, Level 2 – partial implementation and Level 3 – Full implementation. Further description of these levels is a helpful tool for an administrator to use as a guide for implementation in their district/school and this article gave concise steps as to achieve this.

A Tale of Two Schools' Data

Reference

Parsons, Beverly A. (2003, February). A Tale of Two Schools' Data. *Educational Leadership*, pp 66-68.