

## Helping Federal Policymakers Understand and Support Data Literacy

Teachers are the most important in-school factor in student success. Teachers can better improve their practice and student outcomes when they also have an understanding of data's purposes and value and the skills needed to effectively use data to improve instruction. To see results, quality data must also be embedded in school cultures and valued and reinforced by school leaders. To make this goal a reality, teachers should be trained to think of data as a tool for improving instruction and student outcomes.

Current federal and state policies focus on improved results for students through quality teaching. Strategies in school improvement plans, data-driven teacher evaluation, assessments and rigorous standards, competency-based learning, and innovative digital platforms make teacher data use essential. While state and federal policies are asking teachers to use data, they have not gone far enough to promote the skills teachers need to be data literate.

### A Data-Literate Educator ...

**ACCESS:** Knows the multiple types of data available and how to get them.

**INTERPRET:** Analyzes data and turns them into information to address a question or problem.

**ACT:** Takes relevant information and applies it to the decisionmaking process.

**COMMUNICATE:** Shares data points and information with stakeholders to generate further questions, inform decisionmaking, or provide a better understanding of student learning.

**ETHICAL:** Uses information with professionalism and integrity while protecting student privacy.

### Federal Actions to Help Promote, Support, and Incentivize Data Literacy

Federal policymakers can support state efforts by promoting, supporting, and incentivizing data literacy through laws, grants, or guidance that provide parameters or resources for educator quality.

**PROMOTE:** Federal policymakers can promote data literacy by incorporating a definition for data-literate educator in legislation and regulation.

**SUPPORT:** Federal policymakers can take steps to provide direct support through competitive and formula funding to programs that help train data-literate educators.

**INCENTIVIZE:** Federal policymakers can incentivize further promotion of data literacy by creating policies and programs that would be expressly available to those who have previously adopted and/or implemented policies that promote data literacy.

For more information, see *Teacher Data Literacy: It's About Time.*



# When Teachers Are Empowered with Data, Students Do Better

Teachers have access to more quality data than ever on factors like student performance, behavior, attendance, and more. When used along with pedagogy, content knowledge, and professional judgment, these data can help improve outcomes for kids. Follow one teacher, Ms. Bullen, and one of her students, Joey, through the school year to see how data help teachers, parents, and others ensure that students are meeting education goals.



This graphic is adapted from *Ms. Bullen's Data-Rich Year*; for more information and to see the full infographic, please visit [www.dataqualitycampaign.org](http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org).