

Interview Protocols

The general purpose of my research is to gain a better understanding of how school leaders use assessment information to guide school improvement. This study will focus on how school leaders interpret, or make sense of, assessment information. This study will center on the following research questions:

1. What questions does assessment information raise for school leaders, and what factors influence the framing of these questions?
2. How do school leaders find answers to these questions? How do they decide whether to conduct additional data analysis, or to consult assessment assistance, and what data and/or analyses do they find most helpful?
3. What inferences do school leaders make from assessment information?

The following interview questions will guide interviews with those involved in Northshore and Monroe School District's data-based decision-making efforts.

School Principals (45 minutes)

Questions about Background and Context

- What challenges do you face leading school improvement this year?
- How has assessment information shaped your understanding of those challenges?"

Questions about Responses to Assessment Results

You received your most recent WASL results in late July. [Provide report.]

- How did you read this data? What did it say to you? What did you look for? What jumped out at you? What puzzled you?
- What questions did these results raise for you and your school about school improvement?

Questions about Inquiry Process

- How did you go about answering these questions? What besides data have you considered in answering these questions?
- What is your role in this inquiry process?
- What does "data-driven decision-making" look like at this school?

Questions about Inferences

- In what ways did your analysis of data change your thinking about school improvement?
- What understanding did you come to as a result of your analysis of data?

Teacher Leaders (45 minutes)

Questions about Background and Context

- What challenges do you face improving instruction this year?
- How has assessment information shaped your understanding of those challenges?"

Questions about Responses to Assessment Results

You received your most recent WASL results in late July. [Provide report.]

- How did you read this data? What did it say to you? What did you look for? What jumped out at you? What puzzled you?
- What questions did these results raise for you and your school about school improvement?

Questions about Inquiry Process

- How did you go about answering these questions? What besides data have you considered in answering these questions?
- What is your role in this inquiry process?
- What does "data-driven decision-making" look like at this school?

Questions about Inferences

- In what ways did your analysis of data change your thinking about school improvement?
- What understanding did you come to as a result of your analysis of data?