How can you use the data?

As schools become more comfortable in finding the story in their student engagement data, they can begin to ask:

- How can my school improve in social-emotional, academic and intellectual engagement?
- What strategies improve student engagement and result in better student achievement?
- How do I engage students, staff, parents and the community with TTFM data?

Sharing the learnings

TTFM changes the relationship between staff and students. Students collaborate with administration to find solutions to issues that have been identified.

Strategies schools have used for sharing

- Listening language: ‘when you said… we did…’ Or ‘here is what you told us, so this is what we’re doing to try and respond.’
- Engaging students through student councils or leadership groups, assemblies, principal’s advisory groups, bulletin boards.
- Engaging staff through staff meetings and incorporating the data into planning.
- Engaging parents and community through parent councils, website updates or newsletters.

You’ve collected the data... so now what?

Level of expertise analyzing the data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>District coordinators</th>
<th>School coordinators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting started</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starting to get it</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Got it!</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Really got it!</td>
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How can you use the data?

Possible questions for staff meetings

1. How have we promoted student voice in our school?
2. How do we respond to student voice in our school? What difference do we notice?
3. How are we connecting TTFM with other sources of data in our school?

For more information

Members of TTFM have access to many levels of supports including:
- online supports, webinars, newsletters and themed reports.
- https://alberta.tellthemfromme.com

If you have a story about how you are going deeper with your TTFM data, forward to:
EDC.highschoolcompletion@gov.ab.ca

Acknowledgements

This work has been informed by the work of Dr. Doug Willms and school jurisdictions across Alberta.

Student Focused + Student Voice + Student Owned = School Improvement

Moving forward

A resource for school leaders (coordinators, principals, teachers) to increase understanding of the student survey data and awareness on how to use data.
Why the focus on student engagement?

Research tells us there’s a direct link between students’ attitudes toward learning and academic success. So we know that engagement and learning go hand-in-hand: engagement leads to learning—and learning leads to engagement.

The TELL them FROM me (TTFM) Student Survey is a web-based survey that measures student engagement. It gives schools reliable and timely data based on student voice. One-click reports help schools promote and monitor practices that positively impact students’ sense of belonging, well-being and achievement.

This resource is for leaders, including TTFM District Coordinators, School Coordinators, principals and teachers to increase understanding of the data and awareness on how to use data.

In November 2012, school and district coordinators involved in TTFM were asked to provide feedback on the project.

What did we hear?

TTFM as a tool to measure student engagement

School learnings

Aim high

Understand the need for students to feel cared for and safe. Work intentionally and collaboratively in addressing those needs. Set goals for increasing student engagement and then reach beyond.

Use data to drive improvement

Schools using TTFM use data to set goals for school improvement and monitor their progress in achieving those goals. Using this data can determine where to direct efforts.

Create the right environment

TTFM contributes to an environment where students feel comfortable sharing their opinions and where they are actively encouraged to collaborate in problem solving.

Get to know students

The TTFM process can help schools identify which students are most vulnerable. Staff can monitor progress in supporting those students.

Taking action

The data is collected and the responses have been analyzed. Now it’s time to make some changes. Here’s what some schools have been doing and have found successful.

Think big - Start small

Identify 1 or 2 issues and address and develop strategies around them. Engage in conversations with groups of students to gather input on the school community, culture and programming changes that might be effective. Giving students the opportunity to provide feedback identifies potential ‘red flags’ within the student responses, and provides direction for school-wide initiatives needed for improvements.

Create the right environment

Use strength-based language. Move to empowering and open-ended language: Use “we agree to…” rather than “students will…”

Examine school structures

Change in student engagement requires altering some of the structural features of schools. This could include:

• altering school and class schedules; e.g., structuring lunch hours differently
• implementing inclusive sport programs
• building in collaboration time
• offering professional development; capitalizing on staff expertise
• changing how students are assigned to classes and grouped for instruction.

Communicate change

Communicate to students that their voices have been heard. Post their suggestions on a bulletin board in the main hallway of the school; discuss these suggestions at assemblies; include learnings during morning announcements.

Tell them FROM me

Did you know...

We asked you ...

You told us ...

We pledge to...

A feedback envelope can be attached to the school bulletin board for the ongoing collection of feedback from students, staff and parents.

Keep TTFM on the front burner

Hold TTFM meetings throughout the year. Prior to meetings, provide a sample representation of approximately 20 students, with specific measures of TTFM data. Allow students to talk openly about their observations, and brainstorm strategies to be implemented. This process is student-led and staff-supported.

Release results

Provide a school newsletter responding to what students said, strategies implemented and results gained.