Quality Data: The Role of the Principal

Responsibility
As the chief instructional leader, you are ultimately responsible for data collection and reporting in the school. You have the responsibility to report data as accurately as possible.

Things to Think About
- How do you and your staff use data to measure student achievement?
- When you place your signature on a report, how certain are you that the data are correct?
- What data are collected in your school?
- What can you and your staff do to produce quality data?

Things to Do
- Check reports for accuracy and reasonableness before “signing off” and sending to the district.
- With staff, periodically spot-check source documents against data entered to ensure that required data (e.g., medical information) are actually being entered.
- Ensure that your staff have access to appropriate technology tools.
- Stay current by attending meetings and training about data requirements.
- Provide district data personnel with recommendations for improvements in data collection procedures.
- Allow and encourage staff to attend training in their areas of expertise.
- Consider using a variety of training strategies, including the “train-the-trainer” model, where necessary.
- Work with your staff and the district to develop and use standard procedures for data entry and reporting.
- Provide trained staff to back up data entry personnel during peak periods (enrollment, scheduling, etc.).
- Understand and communicate laws and regulations that affect data at your school (e.g., the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 [FERPA] and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 [HIPAA]).
- Support and monitor district data security policies and procedures.
- Encourage the use of data to make daily instructional decisions.
- Provide an environment conducive to accurate data entry.
- Develop a calendar for data reporting deadlines.

Outcomes (What’s in it for me?)
You have many diverse responsibilities within your school; among these is the responsibility to ensure that what is happening at your school is accurately reflected in the data. It will take time and effort to develop a Culture of Quality Data within your school. By helping staff to understand the importance of data entry and data collection, as described above, the quality of instructional and operational decisions will improve.
Quality Data: The Role of Office Staff

Responsibility
You are responsible for entering important data accurately and completely, maintaining data security, and understanding how the data will be used.

Things to Think About
- Who uses the data that you enter (e.g., school board members, the principal, parents, teachers, students, payroll staff, the news media)?
- How are data used to make important instructional decisions (e.g., student placement)?
- What is the effect of the data you enter on schools or programs?
- What can you do to ensure the accuracy of the data you enter?

Things to Do
- Enter data accurately and in a timely manner.
- Ask for and attend professional development programs.
- Ask for appropriate instructions and documentation.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions about your responsibilities.
- Identify barriers to effective data entry procedures and communicate these to the principal or other appropriate personnel.
- Implement the district data security policies and procedures (e.g., change passwords frequently, do not share passwords, treat data confidentially, etc.).
- Check your work and run appropriate edit reports.
- Ask for help when you make an error.
- Identify a peer who does work similar to yours so that you can share ideas and best practices.
- Check your calendar for data reporting deadlines so that you can set aside time for data entry.

Outcomes (What’s in it for me?)
You are at the center of any effort to build a Culture of Quality Data in your school. You take pride in and ownership of your work. You understand the importance of the data you are working with and have taken steps to raise the level of data quality in your school. As a side benefit, working more efficiently means that your data entry tasks will be easier and less frustrating.

You may download copies of this page from http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2005801.asp.
Quality Data: The Role of the Superintendent

Responsibility
As a district superintendent, it is your responsibility to enhance the educational program of students, to improve student achievement, and to see that district policies are implemented.

Things to Think About

- How does your district use data to demonstrate achievement in educational programs?
- How do you know that the data you review are accurate?
- What data are schools responsible for entering into computer systems?
- Is there an inventory of data collected in your district?
- Do personnel in your district understand the use of data in the instructional program?
- Do personnel in your district understand the use of data in funding programs?
- How do you deal with redundant requests for data?
- Are personnel available to enter data into computer systems at schools?
- Are staff responsible for data entry receiving appropriate professional development?
- Is there a process in place to resolve discrepancies in information?

Things to Do

- Set education benchmarks that use data to measure student achievement.
- Support the development of a Culture of Quality Data in your district through an effective professional development program.
- Encourage principals to make data-driven, building-level decisions.
- Support your information technology director in the promotion of more efficient data collection procedures, the use of technology to decrease data entry errors, and the movement toward applications that are “interoperable” (i.e., that interact with each other using a minimum amount of programming resources).
- Support the allocation of funding to provide schools with the appropriate resources to enter data.
- Assign a member of your staff to be a data “steward” or coordinator.

Outcomes (What’s in it for me?)

A Culture of Quality Data in the district will result in reliable data that are useful for evaluating the instructional program and student achievement and for pointing out areas of success and places where improvements are needed.

A Culture of Quality Data will enable you to have confidence in the information that you review and, most importantly, will allow you to make effective decisions.

You may download copies of this page from http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2005801.asp.
Quality Data: The Role of the Data Steward or Coordinator

Responsibility
You serve your administrator by ensuring that the statistical information reviewed by senior staff represents data that have been entered accurately and collected systematically. Furthermore, you enhance the information reporting process through staff development and collaboration with the various offices and programs responsible for producing data and information.

Things to Think About
- Does the information reviewed by your superintendent and senior staff represent facts based on accurate data from programs and offices?
- Does everyone in your school district understand how data are used to benefit the instructional program and provide funds for services?
- Are data collected systematically in the school district?
- Are the staff responsible for entering data trained to do an effective job?
- Is there a process in place that allows “end-users” to request or modify reports?
- Are you and the information technology (IT) director operating collaboratively?

Things to Do
- Coordinate the data collection process.
- Provide professional development for staff members leading toward a Culture of Quality Data in the school.
  The sessions might include
  - demonstrations that incorporate hands-on training, enabling data entry personnel to become used to the actual data entry screens;
  - examples that actually reflect situations that will be encountered;
  - handbooks or guidebooks, with copies of data entry screens, systematic instructions, and the rationale for entering the data;
  - descriptions of the procedures for obtaining assistance (e.g., help desk phone number, online and/or e-mail query process); and
  - copies of the reports created from the data, enabling trainees who enter information to have a sense of how their work affects the operation of the school.
- Resolve discrepancies in information before reports are forwarded to senior staff.
- Develop a process that allows staff to request new reports or modifications of existing reports.
- Collaborate with the district technology director or coordinator to enhance the ability of computer programs to determine effective editing procedures for reports and other information.

Outcomes (What’s in it for me?)
By helping staff members to understand the importance of data entry and data collection, and to see the process that leads to data-driven decisions, you are directly involved in courses of action that lead toward improved student achievement and increased services provided to the district and schools.

You may download copies of this page from http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2005801.asp.
Sample Volunteer Code of Confidentiality

North Clackamas School District is committed to maintaining the security and confidentiality of all student records and information. Selected volunteers with access to student records or information must adhere to the Volunteer Code of Confidentiality as outlined in the guidelines below. Violations of these guidelines may result in a reassignment and/or restriction of the volunteer’s responsibilities by the administrator or designee.

All student records should be considered confidential.

Directory information, including student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, student’s photograph, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and previous educational agencies or institutions attended, can only be shared with administrative approval.

Records should not be left in a place where they can be viewed by others.

Copies of records can only be shared with administrative approval.

Volunteers should not discuss or repeat information overheard while in the staff lounge, classrooms, offices, school grounds, hallways, school or extra curricular activities.

Volunteers should not discuss information obtained while in a classroom, such as a student’s grade or behavior, with anyone other than the student’s teacher.

Concerns or questions regarding student records or issues of confidentiality should be brought to the attention of the staff member that supervises the volunteer, and/or school administrator.

Any knowledge of a violation of this Code of Confidentiality should be immediately reported to the staff member that supervises the volunteer, and/or school administrator.

By signing, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and will comply with the Volunteer Code of Confidentiality.

__________________________  ______________________
Volunteer Signature  Date

__________________________  ______________________
Administrator Signature  Date

(Prepared by the North Clackamas, Oregon, School District and used when volunteers work in their district schools)