

Types of Charter School Program Evaluation Data

Bellwether partners with several charter schools and networks to evaluate their work under the federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant. Bellwether typically uses a variety of different kinds of data, and works with clients to determine what data will be most useful to address the grant requirements. In addition, evaluation questions and data collection are used to support continuous improvement efforts as networks grow. CSP evaluations typically focus on addressing two broad questions:

Is the network sustaining a high-quality model as it expands or replicates?



Is the network continuing to produce strong outcomes for its students?

TYPES OF DATA

Observation notes: observation protocols can be designed to capture aspects of instructional rigor or social-emotional aspects of classroom environment

Interview and/or focus group transcripts: can answer any number of questions, depending on protocol, such as what teachers find useful about professional development activities, or what challenges they've experienced in implementing the curriculum

Survey data: can answer any number of questions depending on survey design, such as whether students have received help in planning for college, or the extent to which the extent to which teachers say the supports offered by the charter management organization enable school staff to effectively educate all students

Teacher evaluation metrics: observation ratings, value-added scores based on student achievement gains, or survey data on student perceptions of the teacher can provide insight into teaching quality

Transcripts of meetings, hearings, or testimonies: documents school processes, stakeholder concerns, and issues addressed

Policy documents: provides insight into formal school/network rules and regulations

Website information: provides insight into network communication with external community as well as students/parents

Records documenting social interactions: provides insight on school climate and social-emotional aspects of the school/network environment

TYPES OF DATA

Student achievement outcomes: such as scores on standardized tests, proficiency rates, percent reaching thresholds on end-of-course exams, ACT/SAT scores, GPA

Additional educational outcomes: such as educational attainment, dropout rate, indicators of grade repetition

Administrative data: such as teacher or student characteristics, family income, expenditures, participation rates, attendance

FOR MORE INFORMATION <https://bit.ly/CSPEvalData>

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