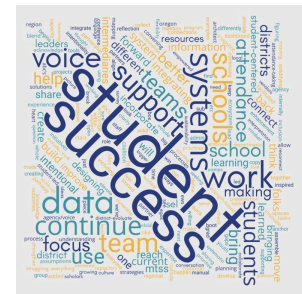# Developing Data-Driven Insights: Leveraging Student Information Systems (SIS) to Support Student Success Teams
Theme Snapshot

January 2026

The student information systems (SIS) that collect, organize, and help analyze data are a critical piece of the development and delivery of effective student supports that rely on real-time, actionable, and holistic data. As much as SIS improvements aim to facilitate robust data use, pain points like gaps in data availability, data visualization challenges, and data literacy can hinder districts from taking advantage of their full potential. During our January session, we discussed GRAD Partnership's efforts to integrate SIS and student success systems. Digital Promise co-facilitated our discussion on innovative strategies to reconfigure data systems and teams to enable real-time data-driven decision making, and we were joined by Lowell Public Schools who shared their story of focusing on data utilization. The January session also provided an opportunity to contribute to the design of a forthcoming free resource to support districts' use of SIS for student success work.

Online Resources

District-Led Technology Innovation to Support Student Success Systems. A scan of the field to understand common motivations of districts who invest in developing their own data tools identified nine common pain points districts face in their efforts to implement technology solutions for student success systems.

https://www.gradpartnership.org/technology-innovation/

Intervention Evaluation Flow Chart

This flowchart developed by Network for College Success lays out a process that uses data to understand if individual interventions are having an impact on student success.

https://ncs.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/tools/NCS_FOT_Toolkit_URAD_SetC_Intervention%20Evaluation%20Flowchart.pdf

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Connecting to Team Practice
Connect theme content with ongoing planning and actions.

Reflection Question

As a team, discuss your districts' current practices using your SIS for student success system decision-making. What is your approach to a team process that (1) determines what data to use, (2) know how to set-up the data, and (3) plans how to use the data? Capture your key points to help the team in the 'next steps' task below.

Next Steps

Using a reflection or consensus tool you are comfortable with, determine your districts' current level of challenge related to each pain point and prioritize the 2-3 which are most important to address for improved implementation. Identify next steps related to each prioritized pain point (consider a 30-60-90 day approach).

Practice-Driven Data: Lessons from Chicago's Approach to Research, Data, and Practice in Education.

This paper reviews lessons learned through the To&Through Project related to how, when, why, and under what conditions data use supports sustainable and remarkable improvement in Chicago youth outcomes.

https://ncs.uchicago.edu/page/practice-driven-data-lessons-chicagos-approach-research-data-and-practice-education

SchoolStat Protocol.

This resource from RiseNetwork is meant to facilitate team discussions of aggregated data. The protocol asks teams to review predictive indicator data and analyze those data objectively looking for high-level trends and patterns,

https://docs.google.com/document/d/18t71fE0yjcyqxXGWzpsmbwpxohcTsLj4l2LbdBgsYEI/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.hppbygb0pb09