Monitoring School Quality

"Monitor the Mission"

Because success is multifaceted, it must be assessed using multiple measures.

BUT

"A wealth of information creates a poverty of attention." -- Herbert Simon, 1971

1. WHAT TO MONITOR?

Outputs/Results:

- academic achievement over an extended period of time
- student achievements that are other than academic
- local indicators that represent unique community priorities;
- the extent to which the performance gaps between groups of students are being reduced
- MAP/ISA/etc. scores (proficiency or growth?)
- IB (participation; scores; pass)
- AP (participation; scores)
- SAT/PSAT
- dropout rates
- graduate follow-up data
- suspension and expulsion rates
- student participation in various courses and programs;
- university matriculation (@ reputation? Consumer Reports ranking? student's top choice?)

Inputs/Conditions

- time-on-task
- curriculum breadth/depth
- class size
- number of academic computers per student
- Enrollment Demographics enrollment; ELL; Learning Support; new-returning-leaving; gender; nationalities; corporate-self-government paid
- Finances budget expenditures (salaries, instructional materials, PD, debt, depreciation, capital expenditures); budget revenues (tuition, fees, investments, donations)
- Personnel Employees (#, local, expat), degrees, tenure, experiences, student:teacher ratios, turnover

2. HOW TO MONITOR

Assessment Tools

- snapshot data
- trend data
- benchmarked data
- scores
- anecdotes
- surveys
- focus groups
- observational methods
- interviews
- town hall discussions;
- action research
- interpreted data
- external review/audit
- "chatter"

3. WHEN TO MONITOR

Formative

- Constantly
- Continuously
- Periodically
- Occasionally

Summative

- Episodically
- As available (semester reports; IB scores)
- Annually
- Strategically

4. HOW TO REPORT RESULTS

- Dedicated publications
- Annual Report
- Newsletters
- Reports to the Board (oral; written)
- Dashboards/Webpages
- Meetings (AGM; PTA; Forums; Assemblies)
- Parent Conferences
- Report Cards
- Celebrations (Awards, Honors, Accomplishments)

EXAMPLE

Measuring success at XYZ International School

We measure our success at XYZ by the extent to which we make our values of inclusion, challenge and success a reality for each student.

Our Five Key Success Indicators:

1. Benchmarking of external academic testing results with other international schools and national educational systems
2. Accreditation reports from the International Baccalaureate Organization and Middle States Association
3. List of Universities accepting XYZ students
4. Competition results in a range of academic and sporting fields
5. Regular feedback via opinion surveys and collaborative meetings with all stakeholders, including students, parents, and alumni

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