

**Why do educators need to be DATA Detectives?
Why do educators focus so many efforts on DATA?**

How do good **DATA Detectives** impact students?

DATA Detectives, and the **Instructional Differentiation** they generate, are essential to **Student Success**.

Differentiated Instruction – educators who are Data Detectives can review student performance, identify where students struggle, and plan for instruction that supports student success. They can use assessment data to differentiate instruction to meet the unique needs of each student. Educators who are good Data Detectives are more likely to impact Student Success in positive ways. Successful students are more likely to continue to higher levels of education.

Assessment – educators who are Data Detectives find out what each assessment includes – the skills that are assessed, where students have strengths and where students need support, and when to use additional assessments to identify other areas of excellence or need. Data Detectives review the whole student and generate additional information to support future instruction. Students with teachers who are good Data Detectives are more likely to learn at higher levels and apply their skills in a broader context.

Teaching – educators who are Data Detectives generally focus their teaching on the unique needs of students. Some students will excel and need enrichment activities; other students will learn and require practice activities; some students will require re-teaching of content or diverse types of opportunities to learn. Educators will adjust their teaching to meet the just-in-time needs of individual students. They can differentiate instruction while supported by ongoing assessment – educators who are Data Detectives are always eager to explore how to provide differentiated instruction that supports student success.

Assessment – educators who are Data Detectives use Continuous Progress Monitoring to determine what worked, for which student, and how to make future adjustments to ensure that ALL students make progress. Data Detectives review data, yes, but they also review curriculum, standards, professional development, and instructional processes. Data Detectives often engage a wider systems view of education.

Why are Data Detectives so important for Reading Instruction?

- Isolating the specific skills with which students struggle in reading is key to differentiating instruction.
- Moving beyond the score on a test – to detect the reason for the score on a test – is essential to instructional planning.
- Expanding the Assessment and Teaching Toolkits helps Data Detectives to support more diverse groups of learners.
- Data Detectives who network with more educators can extend their impact and improve the outcomes for generations of students.