

# Tennessee Teachers Value, Use, and Need Data

*When teachers are empowered with data, students excel.*

## In 2017, we asked Tennessee teachers from across the state their opinions about data, and here's what we learned:

**Teachers value data.** Most Tennessee teachers express that data is a critically important tool for instruction in their classrooms.

### Teachers are using data to help their students learn and grow.

Across the state, in all grade levels and subjects, teachers are using data to tailor instruction, enhance their practice, and support individual students.

Teachers use data to do the following:

- Determine which students need more help with what and how to support them.
- Set and monitor personalized student goals.
- Make strategic decisions about how class time is spent.
- Track students' progress over time.
- Guide conversations with parents about student performance.

*"When you have students reflect on their data, their goals, and what they want to accomplish, that's success."*  
—Teacher

*"Patterns emerging within data help you predict the challenges [students] may have, their successes, and where you need to focus."* —Teacher

*"When you're having tough conversations with parents, data makes things real—it's no longer just the teacher's opinion."* —Teacher, Hope Street Group Fellow

### Teachers need support to use data to improve student outcomes.

Tennessee teachers use data in many ways, but using data effectively is often a challenge. Teachers across the state share common concerns and identify similar areas in which they need support:

**TRAINING** Teachers want **direct data literacy training** on how to analyze and interpret data from a variety of sources. Not all schools or districts onboard their faculty to understand the metrics they produce and use.

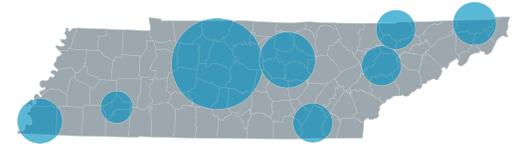
**TIME** Teachers want **time** to dig in and interpret data as well as **the opportunity to collaborate** with their peers to determine how best to act on this information.

**ACCESS TO RESOURCES** Teachers want **proactive, straightforward communication** about available state data resources.

*"We're not getting training on how to look at the numbers and how to look at student work and identify if they're proficient or not. How can we personalize the plans without the right training?"* —Teacher, Hope Street Group Fellow

*"There's never enough time. I hear teachers say a lot that that's one of their biggest challenges."* —Teacher, Hope Street Group Fellow

*"There are great resources out there, but you have to know what you're looking for."* —Teacher



Teachers across Tennessee participated in the focus groups.

## TAKE ACTION

Districts can't go it alone. **YOU** can support teachers' efforts to use data to help their students.



**Provide teachers with timely and accessible student information.**



Give districts and schools flexibility to **provide educators time and training to collaboratively look at data.**



**Engage with teachers** to find out what they need and ensure that their voice is present when important decisions are made.