Sample Questions Educators Want to Answer with a Data System

This list of 183 Qs is by <u>no</u> means exhaustive. E.g., it is missing Qs related to data rarely utilized in data investigations, either because it was never collected, the data system doesn't allow for it to be collected, or its value was simply overlooked by the educators analyzing data. Thus if you compare this table to the "Sample Data Types to Support Educators' Data Analyses" table, you'll notice this table doesn't address many of the topics varied datasets have the potential to help answer.

Topic	Questions
Make a Difference	Is a new course working?
	Is a new program working?
	Which school's students performed the best/worst?
	Which program's students performed the best/worst?
	Which course's or class's students performed the best/worst?
	Which students performed the best/worst?
	Which school's students showed the most/least improvement?
	Which program's students showed the most/least improvement?
	Which course's or class's students showed the most/least improvement?
	Which students showed the most/least improvement?
	What are a district's trends in performance?
	What are a school's trends in performance?
	What are a program's trends in performance?
	What are a course's or class's trends in performance?
	What are a student's trends in performance?
	How did students I taught perform when I taught them?
	Which school's students are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which program's students are most/least likely to graduate?
	What are key things I should know about a student?
	What should I consider when making my seating chart?
	Which students have special health considerations?
	Which students are (or aren't) up-to-date with their immunizations?
	What do I need to know about my students' health?
	Which immunization requirements have students not yet met?
	Which ____'s (school/program/course/etc.) students have the best/worst attendance?
	Which ____'s (school/program/course/etc.) students have the most/least discipline problems?
Accountability	Which school might have helped ____ (state or federal accountability score) the most/least?
	Which program might have helped ____ (state or federal accountability score) the most/least?
	Which course or class might have helped ____ (state or federal accountability score) the most/least?
	Which students might have helped ____ (state or federal accountability score) and which didn't?
	Which students went up/down in (or did not change) level and how might this have impacted ____ (state or federal accountability score)?
	How did performance (e.g., the # of students scoring *Proficient* and *Advanced*) change for a particular class, and how might this have impacted ____ (state or federal accountability score)?
	How are individual English Learners impacting ____ (EL-related accountability score)?

Topic	Questions
Accountability (Continued)	What were the EL-related accountability requirements for each English Learner?
	Which schools are likely to go into ___ (state or federal accountability consequence/intervention)?
	How likely is the district to go into ___ (state or federal accountability consequence/intervention)?
	Which schools are likely to go into ___ (state or federal accountability consequence/intervention)?
Compare Subgroups	Which student subgroups are struggling the most/least?
	In which subject areas are subgroups struggling/excelling?
	Which student subgroups are making the most/least growth (e.g., closing achievement gap)?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. is a particular subgroup struggling/excelling?
	Which student subgroups are at risk of not graduating?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. is a particular subgroup making the most/least improvement?
	Which student subgroups are most/least frequently in the GATE program?
	Which student subgroups are most/least frequently in Honors/AP/IB courses?
	Which student subgroups are most/least frequently being identified for Special Education?
English Learners	Which English Learners should be considered for redesignation?
	How much growth are language proficiency groupings making?
	Which school's English Learners showed the most/least improvement?
	Which program's English Learners showed the most/least improvement?
	Which course's or class's English Learners showed the most/least improvement?
	Which English Learners showed the most/least improvement?
	What are a school's trends in English Learner performance?
	What are a program's trends in English Learner performance?
	What are a course's or class's trends in English Learner performance?
	What are an English Learner's trends in performance?
	Which school's English Learners are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which program's English Learners are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which English Learners are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which school's English Learners performed the best/worst?
	Which program's English Learners performed the best/worst?
	Which course's or class's English Learners performed the best/worst?
	Which English Learners performed the best/worst?
	How likely are language proficiency groupings to graduate?
	How are language proficiency groupings performing?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. are English Learners struggling/excelling?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. are English Learners making the most/least improvement?
	How are individual English Learners impacting ___ (EL-related accountability score)?
	What were the ___ (EL-related accountability) requirements for each English Learner?
	Which English Learners have language skills that suggest they should be performing better elsewhere (i.e., in other academic areas)?

Topic	Questions
English Learners (Continued)	Are too many English Learners being identified for Special Education?
	Are English Learners under/overrepresented in the GATE program?
	Are English Learners under/overrepresented in Honors/AP/IB courses?
Special Education	Which students are eligible to take the ___ (eligibility-criteria-specific test)?
	How much growth/improvement are disability groupings making?
	Which school's Students with Disabilities performed the best/worst?
	Which program's Students with Disabilities performed the best/worst?
	Which course's or class's Students with Disabilities performed the best/worst?
	Which Students with Disabilities performed the best/worst?
	Which school's Students with Disabilities showed the most/least improvement?
	Which program's Students with Disabilities showed the most/least improvement?
	Which course's or class's Students with Disabilities showed the most/least improvement?
	Which Students with Disabilities showed the most/least improvement?
	What are a school's trends in Students with Disabilities performance?
	What are a program's trends in Students with Disabilities performance?
	What are a course's or class's trends in Students with Disabilities performance?
	What are a Special Ed. student's trends in performance?
	How are Students with Disabilities performing compared to Students without Disabilities?
	How are Students with Disabilities making progress compared to Students without Disabilities?
	Which school's Students with Disabilities are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which program's Students with Disabilities are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which Students with Disabilities are most/least likely to graduate?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. are Students without Disabilities struggling/excelling?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. are Students without Disabilities making the most improvement?
	Which ___ (eligibility-criteria-specific test) would be appropriate for each Student with Disabilities based on previous performance?
	What data should I bring to a parent conference or IEP meeting?
	Are too many English Learners being identified for Special Education?
	Are too many students of a particular race or ethnicity being identified for Special Education?
	Which Students with Disabilities have test scores that suggest they should be performing better elsewhere (i.e., in other academic areas)?
Race/ Ethnicity	Which race or ethnicity showed the most/least improvement?
	What are trends in performance for a student of a particular race or ethnicity?
	Which school's students of a particular race or ethnicity showed the most/least improvement?
	Which program's students of a particular race or ethnicity showed the most/least improvement?
	Which course's or class's students of a particular race or ethnicity showed the most/least improvement?
	Which students of a particular race or ethnicity showed the most/least improvement?
	What are a school's trends in performance for students of a particular race or ethnicity?

Topic	Questions
Race/ Ethnicity (Continued)	What are a program's trends in performance for students of a particular race or ethnicity?
	What are a course's or class's trends in performance for students of a particular race or ethnicity?
	Which race or ethnicity is most/least likely to graduate?
	Which school's students of a particular race or ethnicity are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which program's students of a particular race or ethnicity are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which students of a particular race or ethnicity are most/least likely to graduate?
	Which race or ethnicity performed the best/worst?
	Which school's students of a particular race or ethnicity performed the best/worst?
	Which program's students of a particular race or ethnicity performed the best/worst?
	Which course's or class's students of a particular race or ethnicity performed the best/worst?
	Which students of a particular race or ethnicity performed the best/worst?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. are students of a particular race or ethnicity struggling/excelling?
	In which content clusters/strands/domains/etc. are students of a particular race or ethnicity making the most improvement?
	How are individual students of a particular race or ethnicity impacting ____ (EL-related accountability score)?
	What were the ____ (EL-related accountability) requirements for each student of a particular race or ethnicity?
	Which students of a particular race or ethnicity have language skills that suggest they should be performing better elsewhere (i.e., in other academic areas)?
	Are too many students of a particular race or ethnicity being identified for Special Education?
	Are students of a particular race or ethnicity under/overrepresented in the GATE program?
	Are students of a particular race or ethnicity under/overrepresented in Honors/AP/IB courses?
Intervention	Which students went up/down in (or did not change) level?
	What are my incoming students' performance levels?
	Which students are close to a performance band cutoff?
	Which students have experienced a sudden drop/rise in performance?
	Which students performed the best/worst?
	Which school's students showed the most/least improvement?
	Are there any student-specific "red flags" of which stakeholders should be aware?
	Which students are at risk of not graduating?
	Which students' test scores suggest they should be performing better elsewhere (i.e., in other academic areas)?
	What data should I bring to a parent conference or IEP meeting?
	Which students have special health considerations?
	Which students are (or aren't) up-to-date with their immunizations?

Topic	Questions
Intervention (Continued)	Which immunization requirements have students not yet met?
	Which students have the most/least absences?
	Which students have the most/least discipline problems?
	Which students have the best/worst grades?
	Which ___'s (department/teacher/etc.) show discrepancy between grading practices and test scores?
	Which ___'s (department/teacher/etc.) assign the highest/lowest grades?
Contributing Factors	How does student mobility impact performance?
	How are students doing/performing in multiple areas?
	What traits do proficient/non-proficient students have in common?
	What traits do graduates/dropouts have in common?
	What traits do chronically/rarely absent students have in common?
	What traits do students with good/poor grades have in common?
	What traits do Students with Disabilities have in common?
	What traits do GATE students have in common?
	What traits do Honors/AP/IB students have in common?
	How do student absences impact performance?
	How do discipline problems impact performance?
	How does a teacher's number of years at the school impact performance?
	How does a teacher's number of years teaching the same subject at the school impact performance?
Technology	Which ___ (school/teacher/etc.) keeps its/his/her grade book(s) current?
	Which ___ (school/staff/etc.) uses the data and assessment management system the most/least?
Enrollment and Scheduling	What does each ___'s (school/grade/etc.) population look like?
	Which ___s (course/teacher/etc.) have the most/least English Learners?
	Which ___s (course/teacher/etc.) have the most/least Students with Disabilities?
	Which ___s (course/teacher/etc.) have the most/least GATE students?
	Which ___s (course/teacher/etc.) have the most/least students with chronic behavior problems?
	Which ___s (course/teacher/etc.) have the most/least students with chronic absences?
	Which ___s (course/teacher/etc.) have the most/least proficient students for upcoming or current instruction?
	Which ___s (course/teacher/etc.) have the most/least students proficient in Reading Comprehension?
Health and Safety	Which students have special health considerations?
	Which students are (or aren't) up-to-date with their immunizations?
	What do I need to know about my students' health?
	Which immunization requirements have students not yet met?
Format-Specific Data	What data should I bring to a parent conference or IEP meeting?
	How can I get a class roster (listing all students in each of my class periods)?
	How can I easily create labels for teacher "swapping" during state testing?
	How can I easily complete required School Accountability Report Card (SARC) templates?

Topic	Questions
Format-Specific Data (Continued)	How can I easily complete required Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) templates?
	How can I easily prepare for ___ (accreditation visit, such as Western Association of Schools and Colleges) visitation?
Ordering	Which test quantities should I order for ___ (state, federal, etc.) testing?
	Which survey quantities should I order for ___ (state, federal, etc.) surveying?
Abbreviations and Terms	EL - English Learner (this definition can change with time and region: includes all LEP students, as well as the R-FEP students who have not scored Proficient on the state ELA assessment at least 3 times - not necessarily consecutive - since reclassification)
	ELA - English-Language Arts
	GATE - Gifted and Talented Education
	LEP - Limited English Proficient
	R-FEP - Reclassified as Fluent-English Proficient
	SARC - School Accountability Report Card
	SPSA - Single Plan for Student Achievement
	WASC - Western Association of Schools and Colleges