Data Retreat

A total of six data retreats were held during the month of September 2004 in Platte at the Mid Central Education Cooperative building. Twenty-one schools from 20 districts participated in the two-day retreat process. Each of those districts or schools sent a team consisting of approximately six teachers and administrators. There was no charge to districts for participating in these data retreats.

71% of Region 3 school districts completed a data retreat. Eleven of those districts did not have schools identified as being “In Improvement”, but instead chose to use this as a proactive process to maintain high achievement results. 100% of the nine schools “In Improvement” for NCLB in Region 3 participated in the data retreats.

The data retreats were conducted using the process developed by Judy Sargeant of Wisconsin, whose materials were used. School data was examined using four separate lenses: Student Data, Program Data, Professional Practices Data, and Community/Family Data. The entire first day was spent examining student data, such as demographic data, achievement data, and perception data. The other three lenses were examined on the second day. With each lens, the participants examined the data, recorded observations, and made hypotheses. The final step was to write a school improvement goal based on the needs identified by the data analysis.

The Mid Central building was an ideal location because we provided each team with laptop computers to use, which were all connected to a wireless network. The teams could access data on their DDN Campus website, the CRT website, or the SIMS website. In addition, they could access documents and information from the Dept. of Education.

Graduate credit from the University of Sioux Falls, and renewal credit from the South Dakota Department of Education was made available to each participant. 19 of the individual participants chose renewal credits and 33 others chose graduate credit.

Sara Fridley facilitated three of the data retreats. Roxane Leber facilitated two and Kristi Hilzendeger facilitated one of the data retreats.