Prioritizing Domains within Instructional Culture Insight Reports
School Year 2015-16

Why do I need to prioritize the Insight domains on my school report?

Insight reports contain a tremendous amount of information, including teacher responses to more than 40 items across 10 or more topics, and written responses to two open-ended questions. Approaching the data with a narrow lens can help keep you from being overwhelmed. Here’s another way to think of it: focus on less and accomplish more.

Additionally, Insight domains are all inter-related, and by selecting to focus on a foundational domain (refer to the Domain Sequencing Pyramid, below), one which has impact on others, you can maximize the results of your efforts. Here’s an example:

If my school needs to improve in Peer Culture, Evaluation and Observation & Feedback, I will put my focus on Observation & Feedback; this is an essential component to effective and accurate evaluations, and helps to ensure that all teachers in my school are working towards the same vision of effective teaching. In short, by addressing one domain, I can expect to see positive impact on other, related areas.

Conversely, in the example above, if I were to focus first on impacting my teachers’ confidence in the evaluation system, I may be unsuccessful if I haven’t provided a greater number and quality of observation/feedback cycles.

How do I select a domain of focus while reviewing my Insight report?

How do Domains Affect Each Other?

The Insight team has developed the Domain Sequencing Pyramid, below, to show how domains are dependent upon others for successful implementation. Domains lower in the pyramid may affect domains further up in the pyramid, and therefore can be thought of as high-impact. For example, if a school had identified both Evaluation and Learning Environment as areas of need, they should focus on Learning Environment, as this domain speaks to the baseline of safety, order, and a focus on learning which is essential for student improvement across the school. Generally, focusing on your school’s areas of needs closest to the bottom of the pyramid, and then working your way up, is the best strategy for creating improvements in instructional culture.

I’ve selected my domain of focus – now what?

The next step is to create an action plan for improvement. We’ve provided these two resources to help:

- The Insight reflection form will walk you through a step-by-step analysis protocol for interpreting your Insight report.
- This website provides additional information and guidance on using your Insight results.