Data Carousel Activity

The essence of the activity is that all members have a chance to see the same data and formulate what they believe are strengths and concerns. It is important to note that the group should not spend time during the exercise generating solutions or having conversations about how to fix the concerns- this comes later.

**Directions:**

1. Divide available data into the four categories (demographic, perception, student learning, school processes) or other desired chunks, and prepare for small groups to review.
2. Divide the team into 4 equal groups. It is important to diversify these groups so that they benefit from various perspectives as they review the data.
3. Each group will consider all the data and information in that category for 10-15 minutes. As a group, they should generate brief narrative statements about each piece of data on the **Narrative Tally Sheets**. Narrative statements should: be simple, communicate a single idea about student performance, and be non-evaluative. See **Three Tips for Writing Powerful Narrative Statements***. It may be beneficial to review these expectations prior to engaging in the carousel.*
4. Rotate the groups to the next data set and repeat the process until each group has the opportunity to review each set of data.
5. Debrief the activity with each group sharing their narrative statements. The facilitator should lead the group to clarify and combine the written statements as well as identify each statement as a challenge or strength.
6. The group will consider these challenges as they embark on the next stage of the process: Inquiry & Action Plan Design.

*Adapted from “Figuring Out What it Means.” Holcomb, E.L.(2004) Getting Excited About Data (2nd Ed.): Combining People, Passion and Proof to Maximize Student Achievement.*