What makes data-driven instruction successful?

A survey of principals, curriculum coaches, and instructional designers

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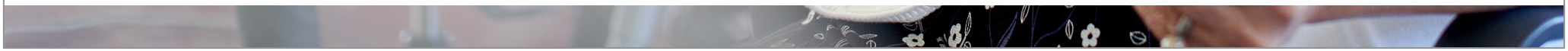
We surveyed more than 100 school leaders about successful data-driven instructional plans. While 64% of them described their efforts as *successful* or *very successful*, all of them faced a number of challenges.

The responses to our survey raise questions about the perceived importance of various success factors and challenges. For example, the most frequently-cited challenge was “Not enough time in the day for teachers,” which may be solvable with better technology or more training. Or, it could be a perception issue. Are teachers bought-in? Do they understand how data-driven instruction can end up saving them time? For the 64% of respondents who reported success, there clearly is enough time in the day.

What do you see in these data? And what questions does it raise for you?

Isaac D. Van Wesep
CEO
Validated Learning Co.



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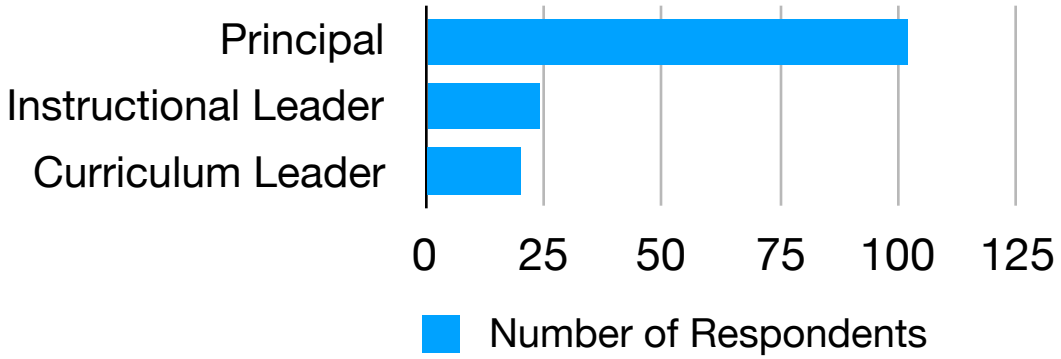
1

What is your role?

Most respondents to our survey were principals, but instructional designers & curriculum coaches responded, too.



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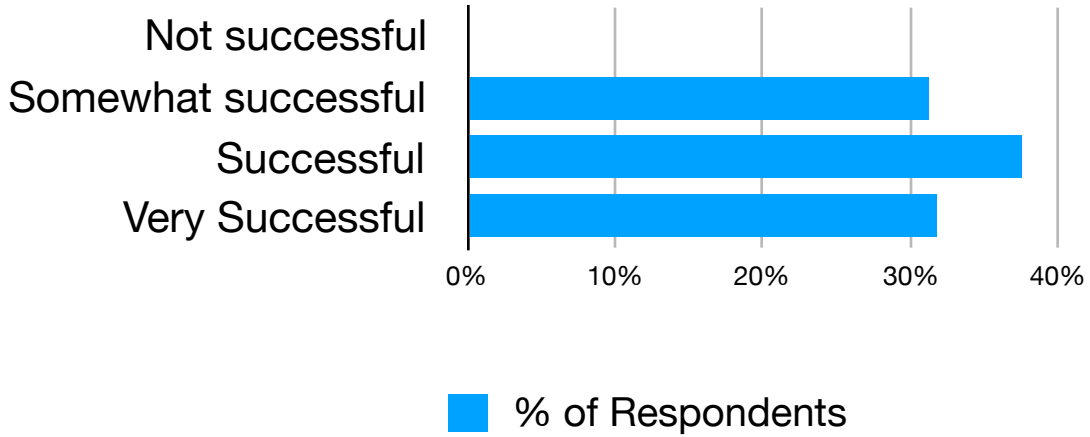
How successful are your data-driven instruction initiatives, overall?

64% of respondents reported success with their data-driven instructional plans.



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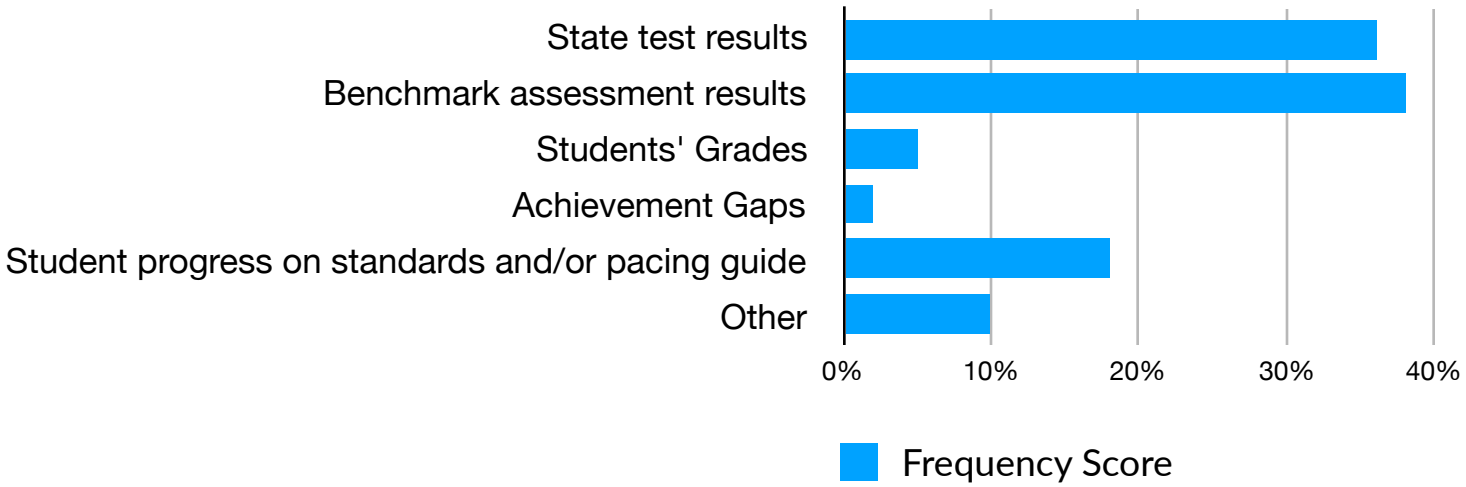
How do you measure success?

Respondents were asked to pick the two most important performance metrics that told them whether their data-driven initiative was successful.



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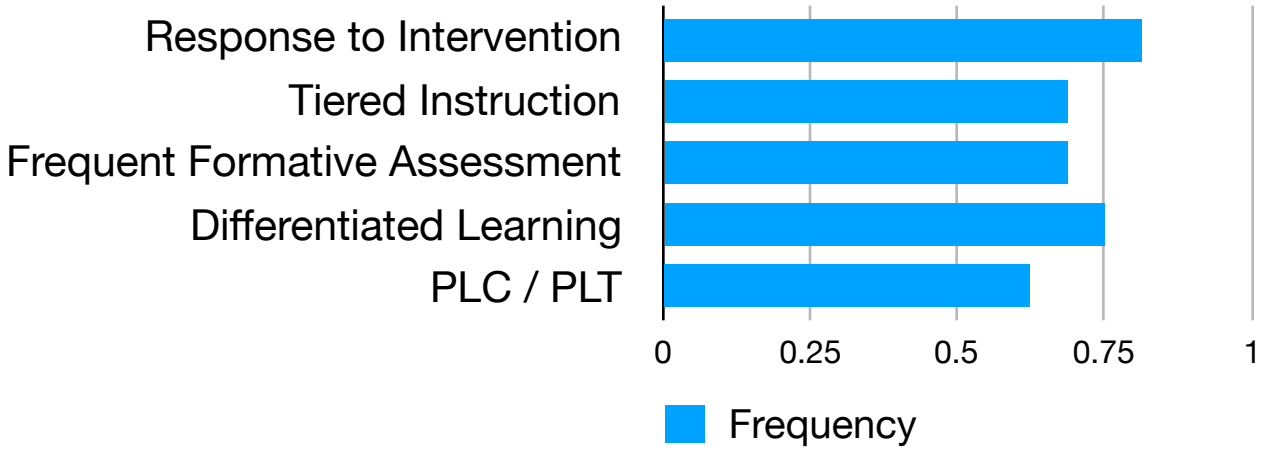
Which of the following techniques does your organization use to differentiate instruction?

Respondents were asked to “check all that apply” and most chose more than one option



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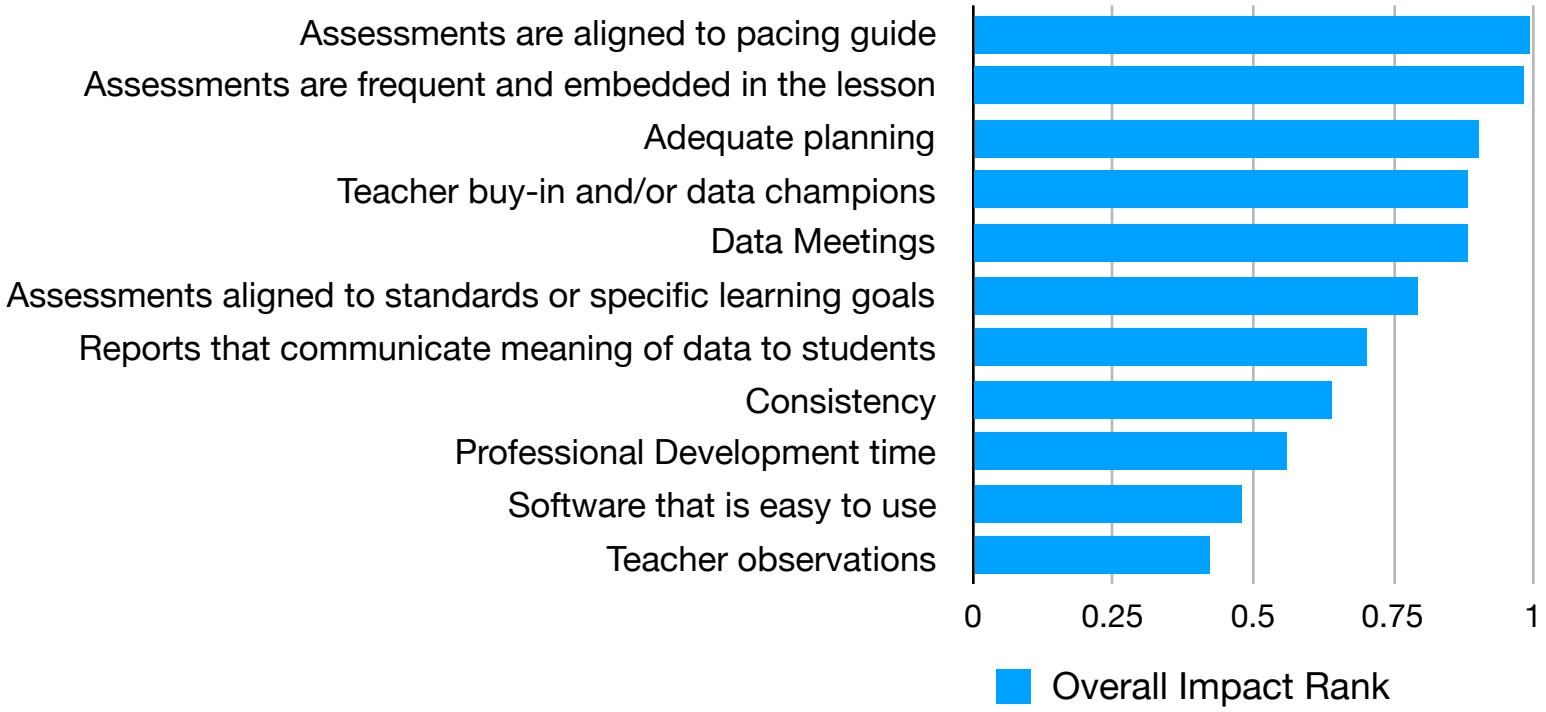
What factors make data-driven instruction successful?

Respondents were asked to rank the following success factors from *highest* to *lowest* impact.



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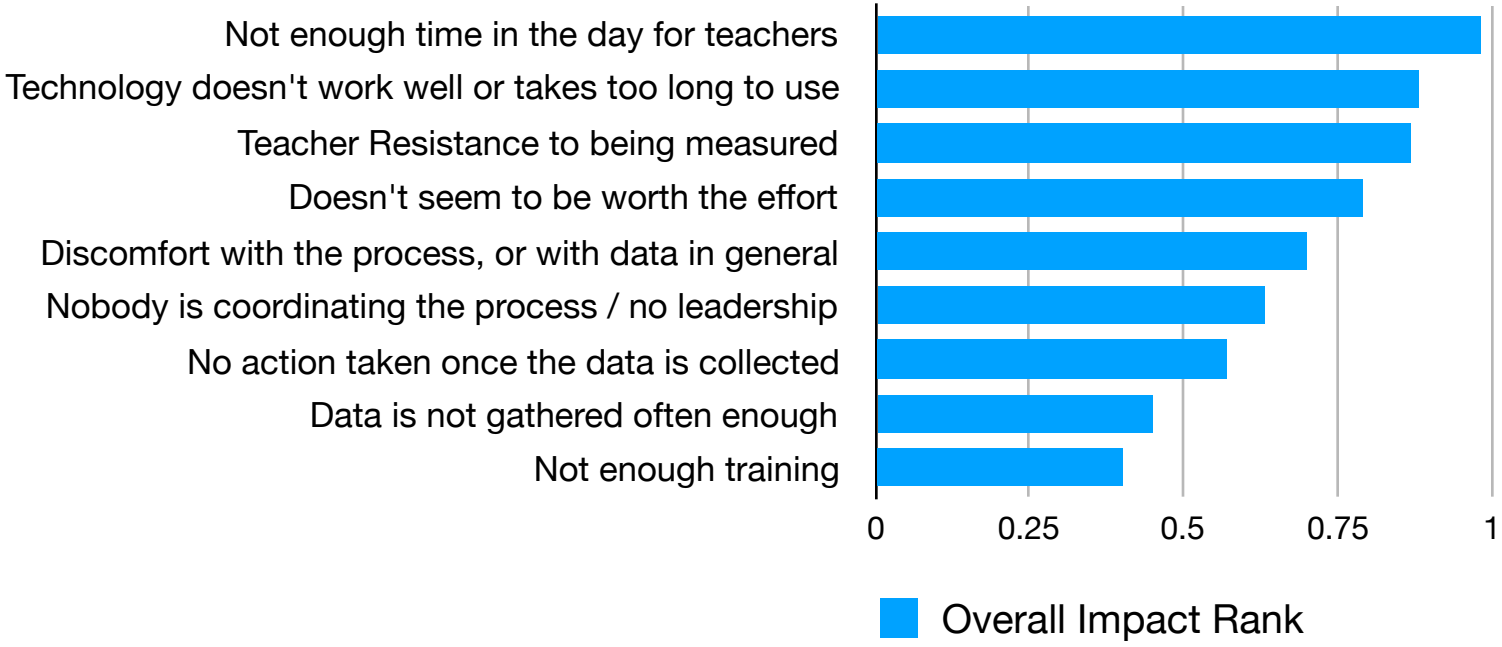
What are the biggest blockers to success with data-driven instruction?

While most respondents reported overall success, they also ranked the impact of numerous challenges that they needed to overcome.



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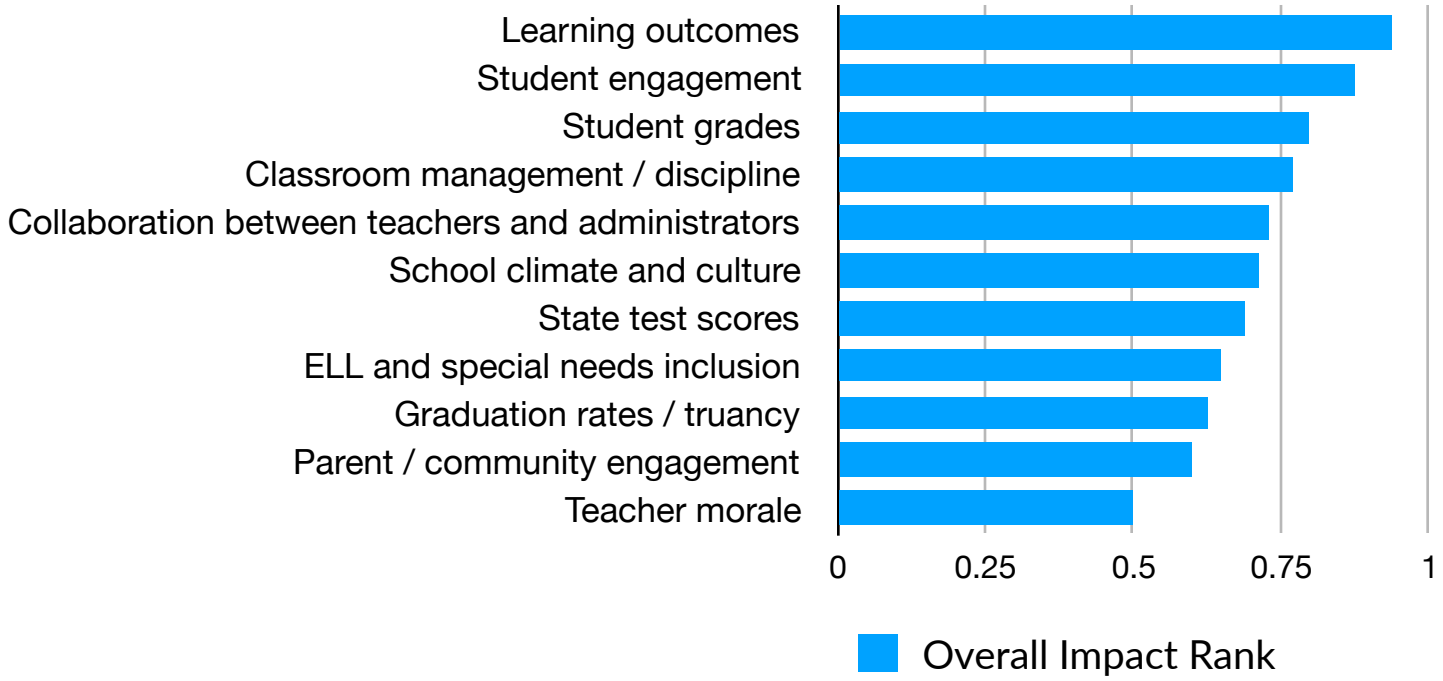
In what areas do you think data-driven instruction makes an impact?

Most respondents thought their data-driven instructional plans had an impact on a wide variety of important and measurable outcomes.



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Final Thoughts?

We asked respondents if there were “other” important success factors. Here is a summary of the common responses:

Consistency

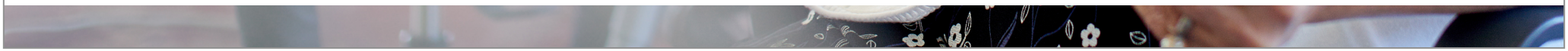
When the entire program is executed consistently so that both students and teachers get a chance to see the commitment and the value, then the program is successful.

Fidelity

When the assessments are of a high quality, then accurate data allows for accurate remediation and avoids wasted time and effort on the wrong students or topic areas

Team Work

When teachers, coaches, and interventionists work together to create the goals for students from the assessment data, then the program is successful. But it breaks down when one or more of these parts of the learning cycle isn’t functioning properly.



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Thank you for reviewing our survey

"What makes data-driven instruction successful?"

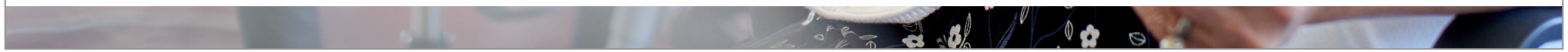
About Validated Learning Co.

Validated Learning Co. makes software for getting rapid feedback from students in the classroom, to improve teaching and learning. We also offer wraparound services that help school districts and schools succeed with using data from classroom assessments to improve student outcomes.

Our staff includes veteran district and school leaders who have been successful in turning around districts and schools using data.

Learn more: validatedlearning.co/readiness

Or call us at (800) 980-1636

Gauge your readiness for data-driven success: take the Data Readiness Checklist

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