



Quarterly Newsletter

October 2022

Data Collection

Jennifer Schroeder, SESA Multiple Disabilities Specialist

Collecting data is an important part of special education. Data shows us not only where a student is now, but also shows us student growth, where a student may need more support and how much support a student needs to be successful. Collecting data can seem like “one more thing” that we struggle to fit into the day, but with a system in place it does not need to be tedious or an all-consuming task.

The 5 W's of Data Collection:

1. WHO - everyone who works with the child (para, teacher, related service provider) should be taking data. Data collection is a shared effort.
2. WHAT - everything that pertains to the IEP goals and objectives (it is very helpful to have a separate sheet for each goal/objective, see attached samples)
3. WHEN - data collection needs to happen every day, but not all goals need to have data collected every day
4. WHERE - across all school settings, this will help to show generalization of the skill
5. WHY- to show student growth as well as additional support needs

To Simplify Your Data Sheets:

- Create a [basic form](#) that can be used with tallies, y/n or +/-
- Use the same level of support code across all data sheets
- Keep your data sheets easily available, on a clipboard or a binder with the student's work
- Put a clear and concise set of directions on each data form; this will allow anyone to pick up the form and know data they are collecting, as well as how to collect it.

[Generic Sample Data Sheet](#)