



Adjust and refine your approach with data analytics

The success of your school's implementation of the IB's programmes largely depends on your ability to track it. When your school can accurately measure performance and outcomes, you can easily adjust and refine your approach to continually improve your school's implementation over time.

Why does our school need data analytics?

Data analytics reveal how your school is tracking, so you can investigate the impact of initiatives and quickly gauge the quality of education you are providing. This helps your school continually refine the implementation of the IB's programmes from an informed perspective, especially when combined with qualitative feedback.

Data analytics are also a powerful way to automate tedious tasks. For example, it is time-consuming and frustrating for teachers to manually manage individual student grades. Data analytics makes it easier than ever to measure, manage and evaluate student performance data. You can also add in business intelligence software—some of which have been tailored specifically to the school environment. This gives you a predictive insight into how students, courses and entire cohorts are likely to perform if current approaches are maintained, making it easy to identify where positive interventions could be made.

What is an analytics platform and how can it support our programme?

An analytics platform is a place to connect and centralize all of your various data sources—from learning management to student information systems—so you can rely on a comprehensive view of student performance. Think of it like a car dashboard for school outcomes.

With all your data centralized, you can use analytics to show how your school is performing, with the power to drill down to individual students to ensure no learner is left behind. An analytics platform also streamlines reporting and management, so teachers can focus on what they do best—high quality teaching.

What can analytics bring to your IB programmes?



You can clearly understand academic progress.

Data analytics on a platform provides comprehensive visibility of student progress and outcomes. This may need to begin with a diagnostic assessment at the beginning of the programme in order to set a baseline for what each class knows and understands. As the year progresses, so will your understanding of performance. Each assessment provides depth to your analysis, as well as an opportunity to identify and offer extra support where needed.



You can identify and develop personalized interventions.

With real-time student performance data, you can spot gaps in comprehension and opportunities for improvement.

Teachers can use performance data to look back and identify where there is a lack of knowledge, or to develop targeted individual remedial approaches to ensure every learner has the best possible chance to succeed.



You can boost efficiency and productivity.

Teachers need to keep up with countless student metrics, from attendance and student engagement to progress and performance. Juggling all of this information can be an immense burden without the right tools. A data management platform streamlines the entire process of aggregating, analyzing and reporting on data. This gives you more time to learn from past lessons and improve instruction.

Key considerations when implementing data analytics

Data analytics provide a lot of powerful advantages and convenient automation, but in order to get the best from this technology, your team will need a cohesive strategy. This is because your analysis is only as good as the data it is based on. Teachers and staff must work together to provide, measure, evaluate and respond to student performance data. In fact, it can be helpful to teachers to review each other's assignments and assessments to ensure they will provide the necessary student performance data.

Here are four helpful strategies for creating accurate and effective measurement data:



Use a mix of assessment types

Effective measurement of academic performance requires a healthy mix of assessment. This includes formative and summative assessment, but other assessment categories can be just as important. Timing is also a key consideration. Diagnostic assessments at the beginning of a course can help teachers baseline student abilities, while interim assessments can benchmark progress.



Align assessments with learning outcomes

Regardless of assessment type, it is important it aligns with a learning standard. For example, each element on a summative assessment should correspond to at least one specific standard so that each question and response provides a meaningful piece of student performance evidence.



Set targeted but realistic goals

As you gather more student performance data, you can begin to develop realistic achievement goals for your class or cohort. Use real-time data to set milestones that are practical yet challenging and ambitious. That way, you can plot a course toward real academic achievement for all students, which also helps them feel challenged and empowered.



Maintain a sustainable level of monitoring

When it comes to data, it can be easy to think that more is more. But teachers are only human, and in any case, quality analysis is always better than quantity. Putting too much pressure on data collection and generation can lead to stress and burnout, while risking a decrease in the value and accuracy of the data you are collecting. Just like student workloads, a healthy balance is key!

Will analytics be difficult for staff to use?

Modern analytics platforms that use big data, cloud processing and machine learning may sound worryingly high-tech, but that's because they take care of all the technical stuff for you.

In fact, most analytics software is based on classic office apps that your teachers probably already use. A good analytics platform should proactively identify issues and provide meaningful recommendations, while allowing you to export any data in easily understandable and shareable formats.

