Guidance on Collecting and Sharing Data to Help Conscious Discipline Build their Research Base

Background

Data from schools and programs that are implementing Conscious Discipline can be used to better understand student growth that might be associated with the curriculum. By sending student-level assessment data to Conscious Discipline, you will help us better understand the associations between the Conscious Discipline curriculum and changes in students' assessment scores (e.g., change in DECA score) over time. We recommend that you use the standardized format described below to provide data to Conscious Discipline. Receiving assessment data in this useable format will make it easier for us to identify patterns and conduct research.

Recommended format

The data we require for our research base are 1) students' scores on a given assessment *before* Conscious Discipline was implemented (i.e., pretest), 2) students' scores on the same assessment *after* Conscious Discipline was implemented (i.e., posttest), 3) the standard deviation for each set of scores, and 4) a list of other interventions that you are implementing for social and emotional learning. We recommend using this Excel spreadsheet template, "Sharing Summary Data," to compile and send student data. Each row in the spreadsheet represents the data for one classroom, on one assessment. If you have multiple assessments from the same classroom (e.g., DECA and MEFS), create separate rows for each. Please give a name to each classroom (e.g., the room number), but please do not list teacher names as that information is confidential. Please specify all numbers with two decimal points, where applicable. The first three rows have been filled as an example.

FAQs

What are the mean and standard deviation?

The mean is the average of a set of numbers. The standard deviation for a set of numbers is a measure of how far the numbers are spread from the average. We use the mean and standard deviation in many statistical tests.

How do I compute the mean and standard deviation?

An Excel formula is a simple way to obtain the mean for a set of numbers. Put each child's values (i.e., pre- or posttest assessment scores) in one column, then, in a blank cell, type "=AVERAGE" and select the cells for which you are computing the mean. A number will automatically generate in the cell, which you can report to us as the mean in the above table.

To obtain the standard deviation for a set of numbers, you can use another Excel formula. Use the same column of numbers you just entered to get the mean. Then, in a blank cell, type "=STDEV.S" and select the cells for which you are computing the standard deviation. A number will automatically generate in this cell, which you can report to us in the above table.

I do not have a way to easily generate the table in your template. Can you help?

We have created an Excel spreadsheet for schools that do not track student data but may want to report findings to Conscious Discipline. Please use the "Generating Summary Data" template to fill students' data. The "Summary Tab 1" tab in this Excel tracker will allow you to report the relevant numbers to Conscious Discipline using the previously specified template.

Thank you for sharing your data on student growth and success!

Guidance prepared by:

Conscious Discipline Research Partner