

## Washington Elementary School Kick-off Event

With our first accomplishment as a CommPACT school---a successful kick-off---behind us, we were ready to tackle our second empowering mission: data collection. The process was new for all of us, or so we thought, and we approached it with trepidation. Data implies statistics and many other frequently frightening topic areas. But the staff enthusiastically tackled the subjects that needed to be researched, with each staff member joining a group based on his or her interest or expertise. The groups met both on their own time and during a portion of time designated for staff meetings.

Initially, there was a great deal of conversation with regard to identifying the information needed to accomplish the task. For example, “Is this important?” “If we look at this, will it tell us anything we don’t already know?” “How will we collect the data?” “What type of data are we looking for?”

As the groups established a direction, members assumed different responsibilities for data collection and those with computer expertise prepared the presentations. As teams examined what they had found, it became apparent that data collection was not really new to us at all. Educators collect data every day when assessing student performance. This was simply different data.

“Reporting-Out Day” was another accomplishment. Teams reported out their findings using handouts and slide presentations. Brainstorming resulted in a list of topics of concern based on the data presented. These were categorized into four main areas, followed by open voting to determine three school-wide priorities.

The staff worked cooperatively to complete this task and, in the process, strengthened current skills, learned new skills and experienced new forms of data collection. Having achieved our kick-off and data goals, we feel confident that we are well on our way to CommPACT success #3: visioning!