

SYSTEMIC DATA MANAGEMENT  
RELATING TO STUDENTS WITH  
DISABILITIES

By Miriam Wilde

**ABSTRACT**

Why data in an education system?

Data can be utilised for many purposes, ranging from the pursuit of “pure knowledge” to more applied purposes such as managing resources, measuring outcomes, reporting progress against goals, accountability and supporting decision making. There are often external influences such as local management, output based budgeting, social inclusion, annual reporting and external review requiring the collection, management, analysis and reporting of information for various external audiences. The reasons for schools needing to manage data will be considered, as well as some basic data management principles, system management strategies, and the story of data management relating to students with disabilities in South Australian Government schools over the past few years.

Even understanding that there are many reasons why educators need to manage and analyse data, at times it still might seem like a task that takes time out of the business of providing education to students. One of the ways to deal with this concern is to continuously improve data management systems and processes so that they become seamlessly integrated into the business of the organisation.

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