



Beyond Transparency: Visualization that will lead to participation

February 7, 2019

**The 30 seconds of scrolling
through Super Bowl memes was
more entertaining than all 3
hours of the actual Super Bowl**



Agenda

1. New SNS guidance!
2. Learning from on transparency initiatives in other public sectors
3. Interview with Chris Adams
4. State questions



Supplement, Not Supplant (SNS) guidance!

- **LEAs must have an allocation “methodology”** (and it must be ‘Title I neutral’)
- School-by-school expenditure data can not be used for SNS compliance purposes

Questions?

Should we do a meeting on this?



True/False

- T/F 1. Education is the first public sector to go through a financial transparency phase.
- T/F 2. Simply publishing school by school spending will increase public engagement and participation in school finance issues.
- T/F 3. States that have already published school by school spending have seen increased media coverage and advocacy engagement.
- T/F 4. The goal of fin. transparency is to increase participation in budgeting. ?

What do you think?



Evolution of 'Big Data' & open government efforts in the public sector

Transparency  Visualization  Participation

From the OECD:

*Governments can play a role “in supporting a systemic and comprehensive approach to enhancing transparency – providing relevant, usable information – and inclusiveness where **governments foster interactions with the public** to improve accountability and engagement”*

Do you (or does your SEA or LEAs) buy into this idea that the goal of transparency is increased interaction with public?



What we learned from transparency efforts in other public sectors...

- Data dumps don't drive participation (or changes in budgets)
- Important to define the 'Why?' for transparency & visualization efforts
- Toward engagement, simulation is most effective, and low cost
- Medium makes a difference
- Participation sparks sense of ownership and accountability (and some evidence of improved efficiency)
- Ask for input, feedback



Chris Adams

President, *Balancing Act*



Other resources

- <http://www.governing.com/blogs/bfc/gov-city-finances-data-visualization.html>
- <http://www.governing.com/commentary/col-lean-continuous-improvement-education-des-moines-schools.html>
- <https://datasmart.ash.harvard.edu/news/article/an-open-letter-to-the-open-data-community-988>
- <https://datalab.usaspending.gov/index.html>
- <https://comptroller.texas.gov/transparency/spending/visualizations.php>
- <https://alex.gilbertaz.gov/>

State Q's. (“Enquiring minds want to know”)

When will you release data?

Quick roll call – please use the chat box to share when you hope to publish 2018-19 school by school spending numbers (December 2019, early 2020, etc.) -- we’ve had a lot of questions lately about timeline.

Any other state questions?



News Flash: New Resource Allocation Review CoP

Interested in participating? Email or chat us to let us know and we will forward you the invite as soon as it goes out from the U.S.
Department of Education



Open finance team positions? Looking for talent?

Send us your job postings and we will get them out.
Soon we will be hosting these postings on our website.

Please send any postings or questions to Laura at
Laura.Anderson@Georgetown.edu



Next virtual FiTWiG meeting: **March 7** from 1-2pm ET

Nominate Principals

Know any principals who may be interested in joining a cohort focused on being spokespeople around school by school spending? If so, email or chat Katie and she can give you more information to make nominations.

FiTWiG Supporters

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

