Gaining Insights from IEP Data & Analytics

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The best vision is insight.

Malcolm S. Forbes

Insights provide the “aha” light bulb that sparks new ways of designing solutions for important challenges.

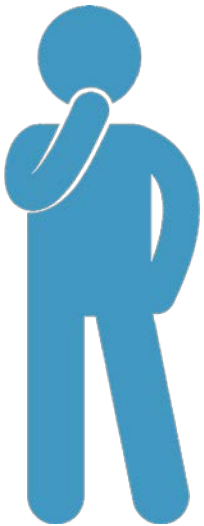
We derive insights from data and analytics and use them to generate How Might We questions.

Previous clients have wondered...

Do goals interact with outcomes based on eligibility category?

Do students' goals actually change from year to year?

Are some accommodations associated with better outcomes than others?



Do our IEPs reflect strengths-based notions of students?

Can we build a more holistic student "persona" that goes past eligibility status?

An interesting occupational therapy insight

1200 Occupational Therapy Sessions	Session Location	Math & Reading Goals Connection
Data might show that the district offered 1200 sessions of occupational therapy last year.	**Analytics** could show how many of these sessions occurred inside the general education classroom.	**Insights** may reveal that when OT services happen in the general education classroom therapeutic goals were more likely to be written with a curricular focus.

How Might We...

- HMW make combining curricular and therapeutic goals when appropriate appealing to all related service providers?
- HMW the general education classroom become most ideal place for delivering related services?

SAMPLE--FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

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To get to insights like the OT example or to answer questions clients wonder about, we mine the textual content of IEPs and apply a set of data mining and statistical techniques to it.

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We use these tools to mine and interpret IEP content

Text Mining

Sentiment Analysis

Pattern Discovery & Evaluation

Correlations to Outcomes

“Correlation is not causation, but it sure is a hint.”

--Edward Tufte, Yale University

. . .

Keep in mind, correlations need to be confirmed as real. It takes systematically exploring other possible causational relationships before asserting cause-and-effect relationships.

Here’s another example that mining IEPs can yield...

An interesting ARD meeting participation insight

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Student Participation in ARD Meetings

Data Source: "Participation in ___ section of IEP meeting"

Data might show in which sections of the ARD meeting students participated.

ARD Meeting Topics

Analytics: Pattern Evaluation

Analytics might show patterns of ARD meeting participation in terms of student participation rates and the meeting topics in which students participated.

Student Voice at ARD Meetings

Insight

An insight might suggest secondary students with an ED eligibility were 15 times more likely to participate in any portion of an IEP meeting as students from any other eligibility category.

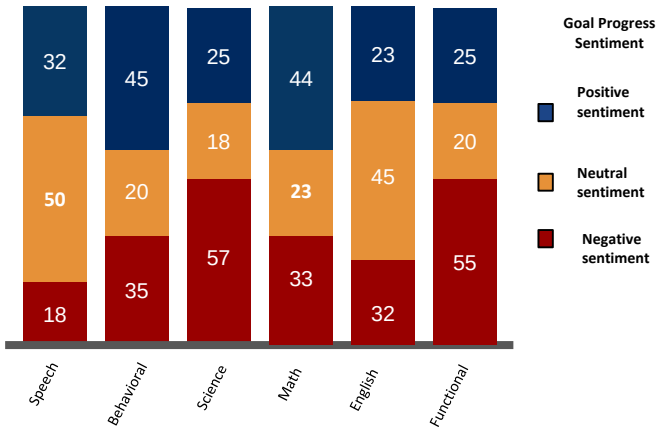
How Might We...

- HMW make student participation the most exciting part of an ARD meeting?
- HMW better support students before an ARD meeting to make meaningful contributions at the ARD meeting?

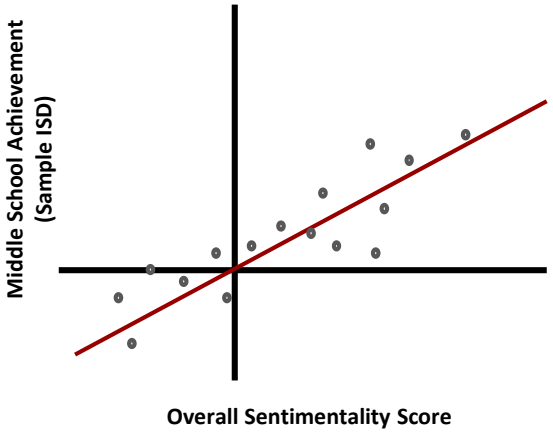
SAMPLE--FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Other visualizations you'll likely see in the insights report

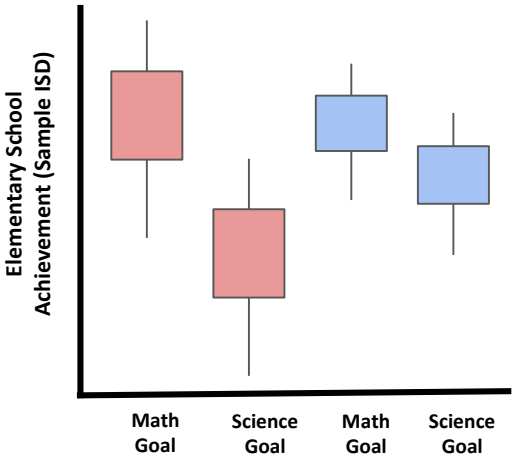
Visualization A



Visualization B



Visualization C



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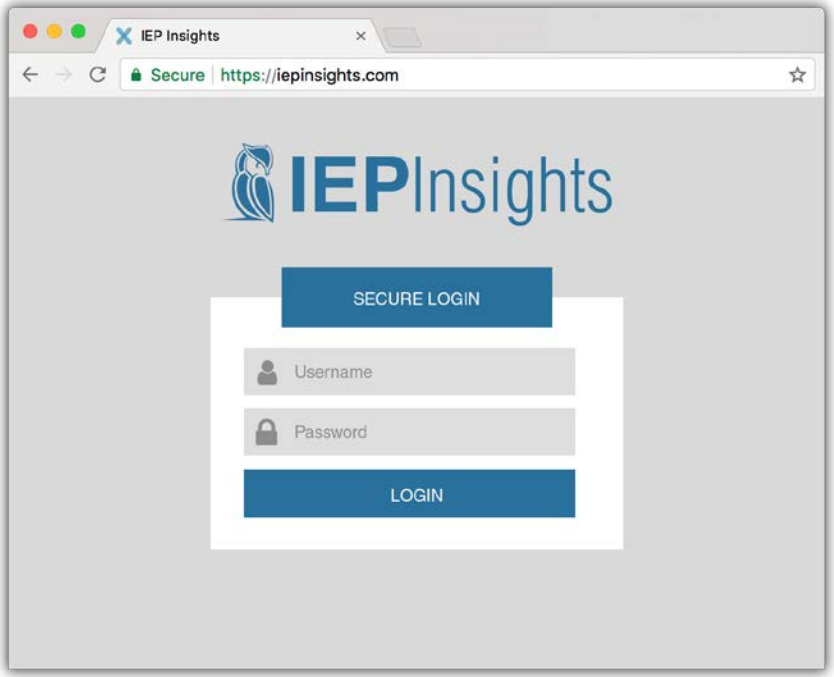
We know the insights are sensitive, so we use a secure portal for distributing them.

IEP Insights Portal



Reports are delivered through the IEPInsights Portal.

The **LEA MOU signatory** will be able to create individualized credentials to SPEDx's www.iepinsights.com to access their insights.

Once authenticated, LEAs will be presented with a narrative describing the insights they are about to view.

Having an online portal to distribute the insights ensures that we can push out additional insights rapidly and we can wrap the insights in additional security.

IEP Insights Portal

The reports will be delivered via www.IEPInsights.com, a secure web-based portal by SPEDx.

- Accounts will be created based on MOU Signatory
- LEAs will only be able to access their own reports and no one else can access their reports
- Insights report will be available for 1 year after publication