

Appendix 1

Interview guide - municipal administrators

The interview guide has been translated from Norwegian.

Author & Author 2015

Introduction questions

What is your professional background and how long you have held this position?
What do you think are the most important areas of work in your job?
What do you spend a lot of your working time on?

What do you think you have succeeded with here in the municipality when it comes to school development? Do you have any special initiatives that are currently underway in the schools?

Characteristics of using student results

Can you describe the municipality's use of student performance data?
Type of data?
When?
How?
Why?

What performance data do you use for school development?
Are there some types of results you use more than others, why?

We have seen that in the Action Plan for (year) XXXX and budget for (year) XXXX for the municipality, several goals are presented based on performance data from national tests, the student survey and primary school credits.
How and who sets these goals?
What is the rationale behind determining the levels of ambition and goals?

Do you consider the numbers in the goal chart an important part of the municipality's work with school management?
Do you use student performance data to identify competence needs, here in the municipal administration, with the school head, possibly teachers?`

Use of performance data in the relationship between municipality / school leader

In what ways do you use student performance data in dialogue with the school leaders here in the municipality?
What are you talking about then?

Do you have regular meetings where you talk to your school leaders about student performance data?

What do you think is important for the municipality's work to renew practice and do student results play a role in this work?

Have you established any regular routines that you consider important in this work?

Benefits and challenges

Are there any benefits to having access to student performance data for you in your work in the municipality?

Which ones?

In what way do you think that student results such as national tests and / or grades can contribute to organization learning in general?

Has the work with student performance data changed the way you work with school here in the municipality?

How?

Is there anything (or anyone) that prevents you from working on student results?

How?

Is there anything you think is particularly difficult or problematic in working with student results?

Is there anything else you think I should have asked you, or something you would like to add before we end this interview?