

MAKE THIS YOUR YEAR OF DATA: PLAN YOUR LEARNING

Every year should be a year of learning and development, for students and for educational leaders alike. However, without a solid plan for development, the year might be halfway over before you set aside time to master a new skill or stumble across a great learning opportunity.

This year, make your own learning a priority by setting goals and lining up resources that will help you meet them. We've put together this list of events, classes, books, and training tools to help you sharpen your skills in using data to drive student outcomes. Whether you're a superintendent, academic lead, technical lead, or data analyst, this guide will point you toward learning opportunities that match your needs.



Online Courses and Resources

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

[National Leadership for Social Justice Certification](#): The Equity and Social Justice Certification, powered by the National Association of School Superintendents (NASS) in collaboration with the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), will show you how to address the unique needs of every student by taking a holistic approach to cultural proficiency, community engagement, accountability, and data-driven instruction. Additionally, this certification will give you the tools to confront challenges like racial inequities, bias, and barriers faced by students. You will also learn how to identify stakeholders and student advocates. Learning will take place online beginning in October 2018 and finish in May 2019.

[“How You Can Ensure ESSA Implementation Helps You Build More Equitable Schools”](#): This guide from the Leadership Conference Education Fund advocates for an ESSA implementation that furthers equity in your district.

[“You Can't Fix What You Don't Look At: Acknowledging Race in Addressing Racial Discipline Disparities”](#): This report from the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at Indiana University discusses how silence on race helps perpetuate school discipline disparities. (Spoiler: data is key!)

[EdFuel's Tools & Resources](#): A series of downloadable guides, templates, and scripts to help you make the most of your talent, including recruiting and hiring, coaching and training, evaluating performance, and designing a compensation system.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION

[“School Discipline Data Indicators: A Guide for Districts and Schools”](#): This resource is designed to help educators select and analyze data to determine whether racial/ethnic disproportionality exists in a school or district's discipline practices.

[Schoolzilla's K-12 Data Library](#): This library of resources addresses how K-12 school districts can use data to change the lives of students.

DATA-RELATED SKILLS: BIG DATA, CODING, VISUALIZATION, CYBERSECURITY

[Learning Data Visualization](#): Learn how to tell a compelling story with data on this 3.5-hour online course from Lynda.com.

[Business Analytics](#): This three-month 'nanodegree' program from Udacity starts with the basics of applied data science and covers common tools like Excel, SQL, and Tableau.

Tableau's resources: This leading data visualization software program offers [free training videos](#) and [useful help documentation](#).

[Data Visualization with Tableau Specialization](#) and [Data Visualization and Communication with Tableau](#): For even more resources on Tableau, check out these online courses, both from Coursera.

[Introduction to R](#): This course from DataCamp will introduce you to the basics of R, a leading statistical programming language.

[Learn to Program: The Fundamentals](#): This seven-week course is taught by the University of Toronto on Coursera and covers the basics of Python.

[Protecting Student Privacy in Connected Learning](#): The privacy-related self-study course is designed for school district leaders who want to understand existing privacy laws, define best and necessary practices around privacy, and communicate effectively with their communities.

[Advanced Persistent Prevention: Cybersecurity in K-12 Education](#): You'll cover the fundamentals of IT security, including network security, risks, and controls, as well as vulnerabilities and mitigation.



Yearlong Fellowships

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

[The School Superintendents Association \(AASA\) Aspiring Superintendents Academy](#): This highly interactive yearlong program provides the real-world skills the next generation of superintendents will need to thrive, including four in-person sessions during the school year, connection with an experienced superintendent mentor, and completion of a culminating capstone project.

[Superintendents Leadership Academy](#): This yearlong leadership training institute from the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents allows participants to continue in their present jobs while being trained, coached, and mentored by high-powered, successful practitioners. The goal is for them to someday assume high-level roles in high-poverty and minority-serving school systems.

[School Systems Leaders Fellowship](#): The program is perfect for educators driven to become cabinet-level instructional leaders. Its residency-based cohort model includes seminar-based curricula, executive coaching, and ongoing career support.

[Surge Fellowship](#): Another cohort-based model that supports emerging leaders of color in Chicago, IL and Oakland, CA who benefit from monthly sessions, executive coaching, and a mission-driven community.

[Aspiring Latino Leaders Academy](#): Fellows build their talent management, public policy, evaluation, and program management skills. Applicants must be Latinx education leaders between the ages of 26-35 years old who are based in the Boston, MA area.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION

[Harvard SDP Fellowship](#): This two-year program strengthens the capacity of education agencies to use data for improvement. It finds and trains data strategists to advance critical analytic initiatives, uncover valuable insights, and build a strong data culture in partner organizations.

[Education Pioneers Impact Fellowships](#): EP offers a structured workshop series combined with placement at an education organization, all focused on the role of data and analysis in supporting students.



Books and Articles

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

[How to Create the Conditions for Learning: Continuous Improvement in Classrooms, Schools, and Districts](#), by Ann Jaquith: An example-rich guide to managing four types of resources to maximize instructional capacity: knowledge, technology, relationships, and structures.

[Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard](#), by Chip Heath and Dan Heath: Although not education-specific, a helpful dive into the psychology of change management. Perhaps you'll want to read with your data initiatives in mind!

[Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students](#), by Zaretta Hammond: An educator-directed exploration of culturally-responsive instruction from a neurological angle.

[Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do](#), by Claude M. Steele: Steele, a social psychology researcher at UC Berkeley renowned for his work on stereotype threat, walks the reader through his and his colleagues' research, both illuminating the findings themselves and retelling the experience of discovering them.

[This is Not a Test: A New Narrative on Race, Class and Education](#), by José Vilson: An evocative series of essays about race, class, and education told by a middle school math teacher.

[Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools: Differences that Make a Difference](#), by Howard C. Stevenson: Stevenson discusses strategies schools can use to improve their ability to read, recast, and resolve stressful race-based encounters when they happen.

[Managing to Change the World: The Nonprofit Manager's Guide to Getting Results](#), by Alison Green and Jerry Hauser: A straightforward management manual for anyone responsible for achieving a social impact (like school districts). Examples and templates included.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION

[Data Literacy for Educators: Making It Count in Teacher Preparation and Practice](#), by Ellen B. Mandinach and Edith S. Gummer: A great primer on the foundation of any data culture: data literacy, especially where it concerns teachers.

["District and School Data Team Toolkit"](#), by R. Geier and S. Smith: The Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction's office produced this extensive toolkit for district and school leaders seeking to improve data use, including worksheets, sample meeting agendas, and helpful tips.

[Driven by Data: A Practical Guide to Improve Instruction](#), by Patrick Bambrick-Santoyo: The Chief Schools Officer of Uncommon Schools provides insight into the challenges of implementing data-driven instruction, and how to overcome them.

[Storytelling with Data: A Data Visualization Guide for Business Professionals](#), by Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic: Master the art of bringing data to life through storytelling. This text walks the reader through theory bolstered with plenty of real-life examples. An excellent complement to Tufte's work.

[Algorithms to Live By: The Computer Science of Human Decisions](#), by Brian Christian: The author applies lessons from computer science to human decision-making, helping us to answer questions like, "How can I develop better instincts?" and "When is it best to leave things to chance?"

DATA-RELATED SKILLS: BIG DATA, CODING, VISUALIZATION, CYBERSECURITY

[An Introduction to R: Notes on R: A Programming Environment for Data Analysis and Graphics](#), by W. N. Venables, D. M. Smith, and the R Core Team: Try this manual for a relatively brief introduction to R.

[Analysis of Questionnaire Data with R](#), by Bruno Falissard: Falissard provides a helpful bridge between the theoretical and practical, between a researcher's question and its interpretation via R.

[R Cookbook](#), by Paul Teetor: This cleverly conceived "cookbook" serves up example problems and solutions, each designed to help the reader follow along at home.



Meet Up Groups

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION

Educational technology meetup groups meet in many cities. [Search for "education" and "technology" on Meetup.com.](#)

DATA-RELATED SKILLS: BIG DATA, CODING, VISUALIZATION, CYBERSECURITY

[Galvanize Learn to Code and Data Science meetups](#): These in-person events will help you meet other data lovers and sharpen your skills. Regions currently include New York City, San Francisco, Austin, Seattle, Denver, and Phoenix.

[Tableau user groups](#): If you're using Tableau, find fellow users in your region to share advice, examples, and tips.



Conferences

FALL

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

[Intentional Play Summit](#)

September 21, 2018, in Mountain View, CA

Who: Educators and game developers

What: Explore games and emerging technologies that promote experiential learning and strive for a social impact.

[Leading for Equity Institute from the National Equity Project](#)

October 3-6, 2018, in Itasca, IL and October 22-23, 2018, in Oakland, CA

Who: School and district teams working toward equity

What: Deepen commitment, relationships, and efficacy while developing strategies to reach equity goals.

[Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents \(ALAS\) Education Summit](#)

October 10-13, 2018, in San Diego, CA

Who: Latinx administrators and administrators in districts that serve Latinx students

What: Address challenges in the education system, particularly those impacting Latinxs, centered around the theme "Equity: United We Stand."

[RTI Innovations in Education Conference](#)

October 16-17, 2018, in Salt Lake City, UT

Who: Educators and administrators implementing RTI

What: Learn what to do and what not to do when implementing RTI at a large scale.

[Council of the Great City Schools Fall Conference](#)

October 24-28, 2018, in Baltimore, MD

Who: Big-city school superintendents, board members, senior administrators, and college deans of education

What: Discuss issues and share information and best practices to improve teaching and learning.

[Annual Conference for Middle-Level Education](#)

October 25-27, 2018, in Orlando, FL

Who: Principals and teachers who work with fifth through ninth graders

What: Learn proven, research-based practices for working with young adolescents to help your school and classroom reach its goals.

[Conference on Educational Leadership from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development \(ASCD\)](#)

November 2-4, 2018, in Nashville, TN

Who: Educators and leaders

What: Gain the knowledge and tools you need to create an effective, supportive, and engaging learning environment for your students.

[Advancing Improvement in Education Conference \(AIE\)](#)

November 13-14, 2018, in San Antonio, TX

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Find the inspiration you need to facilitate the changes needed to improve student outcomes for all.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION

[EdSurge Fusion](#)

October 2-4, 2018, in Burlingame, CA

Who: Education leaders

What: Bridge the gap between theory and practice, focusing on technology and integrating what learning sciences, community development, and social-emotional research can teach us about the holistic picture of personalized learning in schools and districts.

[iNACOL Symposium](#)

October 21-14, 2018, in Nashville, TN

Who: Experts, practitioners, educators, policymakers, and researchers

What: Take advantage of networking opportunities and access to expertise, analysis, and trends in competency-based, blended and online education.

[DevLearn](#)

October 24-26, 2018, in Las Vegas, NV

Who: Educational leaders at all levels

What: Discover what's next for learning and technology and advance the work together.

[Reaching for Greatness: Using Brain Science to Promote Student Potential, Passions, Talents, and Genius](#)

November 16-18, 2018, in Boston, MA

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Explore the science behind child prodigies, talents, and genius and find out how schools can help all students reach their full potential.

DATA-RELATED SKILLS: BIG DATA, CODING, VISUALIZATION, CYBERSECURITY

[O'Reilly Strata Conference](#)

September 11-13, 2018, in New York City, NY

Who: Data professionals, designers, and developers

What: Glimpse a first look at emerging trends from industry leaders and practical training in technology.

[Tableau Conference](#)

October 22-25, 2018, in New Orleans, LA

Who: Data fanatics and customers

What: Embrace your inner data rock star and become your team's Tableau champion.

WINTER

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

[Learning Forward](#)

December 1-5, 2018, in Dallas, TX

Who: Central office administrators, teacher leaders, and principals

What: Focus on pressing issues including personalized and competency-based learning, improving instruction, culturally responsive pedagogy, applying data-driven decision-making, and developing leadership capacity.

[Leading for Equity Institute from the National Equity Project](#)

January 31-February 3, 2019, in Marshall, CA

February 21-24, 2019, in Sonoma, CA

February 27-March 2, 2019, in Itasca, IL

Who: School and district teams working toward equity

What: Deepen commitment, relationships, and efficacy while developing strategies toward equity goals.

[The School Superintendents Association \(AASA\) National Conference on Education](#)

February 14-16, 2019, in Los Angeles, CA

Who: All school administrators

What: Increase leadership skills and professional competence and address the controversial issues facing today's educators.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION

[SciTech Leadership Academy's EduCon](#)

January 25-27, 2019, in Philadelphia, PA

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Discuss the future of schools at this innovation conference.

[Future of Education Technology Conference \(FETC\)](#)

January 27–30, 2019, in Orlando, FL

Who: School and district administrators, classroom teachers, IT professionals, special education directors, curriculum and media specialists, and other educators with roles or interest in education technology

What: Explore new technologies, best practices, and pressing issues at this intensive, highly collaborative conference.

[Educating with Empathy: Using the Science of Human Goodness to Promote Child Compassion, Cooperation, and Collaboration](#)

February 15–17, 2019, in San Francisco, CA

Who: Educators and clinicians

What: Research has discovered that positive emotional behaviors are hardwired in the brain and are essential for human survival, especially in today's caustic, chaotic world. Discover the "science of human goodness" and its findings on the importance of compassion, collaboration, and empathy; learn ways to teach and train these skills in children and teens and why they are essential for academic and life success.

[iLearnCollaborative](#)

February 22–23, 2019, in Denver, CO

Who: Education leaders

What: Bridge the gap between the theory and the practice of student-centered learning and share relevant strategies, then learn how to enable those strategies with technology.

DATA-RELATED SKILLS: BIG DATA, CODING, VISUALIZATION, CYBERSECURITY

[Presenting Data and Information with Edward Tufte](#)

December 3–5, 2018, in San Francisco, CA and December 7, 2018, in San Jose, CA

Who: Anyone who analyzes and presents data

What: This one-day, in-person course covers fundamental design strategies for all information displays and presentations; taught by designer Edward Tufte, it includes copies of all four of his books.

SPRING

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

[SXSW EDU](#)

March 4–7, 2019, in Austin, TX

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Foster innovation in learning by joining a community of optimistic, forward-thinking, purpose-driven stakeholders with a shared goal of having an impact on the future of teaching and learning.

[Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development \(ASCD\) Empower](#)

March 16–18, 2019, in Chicago, IL

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Discuss topics including transformational leadership, global engagement, poverty and equity, redefining student success, and teaching and learning.

[Leading for Equity Institute from the National Equity Project](#)

March 21–24, 2019, in Sonoma, CA

Who: School and district teams working toward equity

What: Deepen commitment, relationships, and efficacy while developing strategies to reach equity goals.

[Deeper Learning](#)

The 2019 date is not yet set, but it usually takes place in March in San Diego, CA.

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Focus on creating opportunities for students to think critically, embrace challenges, and become self-directed learners.

[Carnegie Foundation's Summit on Improvement in Education](#)

The 2019 date and location are not yet set; however, it is usually held in April.

Who: Educators, researchers, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and policymakers

What: Explore the best models for enacting education reform based on proven methods of the improvement sciences—valuing inquiry and evidence instead of intuition and anecdotes.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION[Brainstorm](#)

March 3–5, 2019, in Wisconsin Dells, WI

Who: K–20 education technologists

What: Network with your counterparts and connect with technology vendors that cater to the K–20 community.

[Learning Solutions Conference and Expo](#)

The 2019 dates are not set yet, but the conference and expo are typically held in March.

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Connect with peers around instructional design, develop practical skills, and gain new knowledge.

[Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\) Annual Conference](#)

April 1–4, 2019, in Portland, OR

Who: School district teams, including chief technology officers, instructional technology directors, and superintendents

What: Explore how we can provide the class of 2030 with the skills they will need for success. The conference will focus on the role technology leaders play in envisioning, shaping, and leading the school system transformation to support the needs of students.

[Blended & Personalized Learning Conference](#)

April 4–6, 2019, in Providence, RI

Who: Educators and leaders

What: Discuss blended learning in terms of the day-to-day implementation and the strategies and systems that have effectively supported replication and scale. Showcase the best classroom, school, and district implementers from across the nation.

[Schooling Social Minds: Using Brain/Social Science to Raise Social Skills, Social Thinking, and Learning in the Digital Age](#)

May 3–5, 2019, in New York, NY

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Today, children and teens are spending more time texting, playing video games, and communicating on social media than ever before. Discover the “science of social minds” and why our brains are wired for physical connections. Learn ways to help students improve social skills and friendships, overcome social anxiety and media addiction, and how to teach and appreciate those who are socially different.

[Harvard Strategic Data Project Annual Convening](#)

The 2019 dates are not set yet, but the event is typically held in May/June in Boston, MA.

Who: Data strategists, education leaders, and research faculty

What: Exchange knowledge and share what works in making evidence-informed change.

[Emerging Learning Design](#)

The 2019 dates are not set yet, but the event is typically held in May/June in Montclair, NJ.

Who: Educators, leaders, and researchers

What: Join an ongoing discussion on how pedagogy, research, and scholarship can be enhanced and transformed by technology.

DATA-RELATED SKILLS: BIG DATA, CODING, VISUALIZATION, CYBERSECURITY[O’Reilly Strata Conference](#)

March 25–29, 2019, in San Francisco, CA

Who: Data professionals, designers, and developers

What: Take a first look at emerging trends from industry leaders and gain practical training with technology.

SUMMER**LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**[Leading for Equity Institute from the National Equity Project](#)

June 24–25, 2019, in Oakland, CA

Who: School and district teams working toward equity

What: Deepen commitment, relationships, and efficacy while developing strategies toward equity goals.

[Leading Schools Summit](#)

The 2019 dates and location are not set yet; however, the event is usually held in June in Portland, OR

Who: Principals, assistant principals, and district office leaders

What: Collaborate and develop strategies to address common challenges that leaders are tackling in their schools.

[National Principals Conference](#)

July 18-20, 2019 in Boston, MA

Who: K-12 school leaders

What: Share systems and tools that can help spark change and promote creativity, courageous action, and an entrepreneurial mind-set.

[National Association of Elementary School Principals \(NAESP\) Pre-K-8 Principals Conference](#)

The 2019 date and location are not set yet; however, the event is usually held in July.

Who: Pre-K-8 administrators and teacher leader teams

What: Hear from experts, learn skills, meet with vendors, and collaborate with peers.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA IN EDUCATION

[International Society for Technology in Education \(ISTE\) Conference and Expo](#)

June 23-26, 2019, in Philadelphia, PA

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Harness the power of technology to advance learning and teaching.

[Harvard SDP Institute for Leadership in Analytics](#)

The 2019 dates are not set yet; however, the event is typically one week in July, in Cambridge, MA.

Who: Individuals who work with data for a school system, district, state, or education nonprofit; possess a basic understanding of statistical programming (mastery not required); and demonstrate a commitment to making a difference in education using evidence.

What: For one week at Harvard University, step back from your daily responsibilities and engage in candid conversations about your strategic goals and challenges. Strengthen your technical skill set, and make plans for data-driven progress in your organization.

[Building Learning Communities](#)

July 17-19, 2019, in Boston, MA

Who: K-12 and college leaders

What: Join powerful sessions conducted by thought leaders from all over the world.

[Connected Learning Summit](#)

August 1-3, 2019 in Cambridge, MA

Who: Educators at all levels

What: Innovators harness emerging technology to expand access to participatory, playful, and creative learning.

DATA-RELATED SKILLS: BIG DATA, CODING, VISUALIZATION, CYBERSECURITY

[Data Science for Social Good Fellowship](#)

The 2019 dates are not set yet.

Who: Aspiring data scientists

What: Join a summer program to train aspiring data scientists to work on data mining, machine learning, big data, and data science projects with social impact. Fellows take on real-world problems in education, health, energy, public safety, transportation, economic development, international development, and more. For three months, you will learn, hone, and apply your data science, analytical, and coding skills; collaborate in a fast-paced atmosphere; and learn from mentors in industry and academia.

[Presenting Data and Information with Edward Tufte](#)

The 2019 dates are not set yet; however, the event is usually held in various Northwest and Midwest cities in July and August.

Who: Anyone who analyzes and presents data

What: Join a one-day, in-person course on fundamental design strategies for all information displays and presentations, taught by designer Edward Tufte and including copies of all four of his books.