



Evidence-based tools and guidance
for delivering effective programs

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GUIDANCE FOR TIP SHEET: USING DATA TO STRATEGICALLY GROUP STUDENTS

This document provides guidance on how to use the Using Data to Strategically Group Students tip sheet available in the Summer Learning Toolkit. You can also access the tip sheet in the Academics and Enrichment section of the Toolkit.

What is the *USING DATA TO STRATEGICALLY GROUP STUDENTS* tip sheet and how can you use it?

This tip sheet was developed by Bellwether Education Partners to help program and instructional leaders to differentiate instruction during large- and small-group activities. It provides a step-by-step process for collecting and analyzing student data and using it to group and regroup students with purpose.

Why are multiple grouping strategies important?

Research shows that small-group instruction is an effective way to provide explicit instruction and more practice for students who need it. RAND found that teachers reported large differences in knowledge and skills across students, even in programs targeting low-performing students. For that reason, differentiated materials and groupings are important to engage students who quickly complete tasks at the same time others are struggling with a concept.

Small-group instruction has been shown to be particularly effective for students with reading difficulties. Beyond skill-level groupings, students enjoy working in a variety of grouping formats that reflect their knowledge, interests, and progress.

Who can benefit from this resource?

- District program leaders
- School-based program leaders
- Instructional leads and coaches
- Instructional staff