

Data Data Everywhere

Here are a few of the commonly used words that describe data.

Personally Identifiable

Confidential

De-Identified

Real-Time

Point-in-Time

Transactional

Operational

Snapshot

Formative

Summative

Outcome

Process

Diagnostic

Actionable

Clean

Quality

Context

Input

Raw

Derived

Missing

Imputed

Obfuscated

Masked

Historical

Longitudinal

Predictive

Lagging

Leading

Max Yield

Meta

Extract

Back Up

Search

Continuous

Discrete

Categorical

Interval

Electronic

Convincing

Bad

Late

Conflicting

Timely

Place each of these words after data.

Map
Model
Table
Cube
Base
Warehouse
Mart
Store
Resource
Flow
Entry
Dump
Clean-Up
Usage
Integrity
Burden
Dictionary
Free
Exchange
Electronic
Mining
Masking
Obfuscation
Imputation
Rules

Data are everywhere. A few decades ago, teachers relied upon subjective, informal, empirical observations to make decisions about students. Maybe they saw last year's test scores. Today, teachers can access data in real time through Ed-Fi dashboards. However, remember Coleridge?

Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.
--Rime of the Ancient Mariner

The Eduguru speaks:

Data, data everywhere,
And all the minds did shrink;
Data, data, everywhere,
Nor any time to think.
--Time of the Modern Educator

Real-time data is Ed-Fi's promise today. The magic is for the user to know how to go right to the dashboard that answers the question of the moment. The real-time question, the answer to which will determine appropriate action, is the target for the data.