The Big Ideas of the Individual Student Data Meeting

1. We've seen over and over again the research on the effects of poor academic achievement on dropout rates, criminal behavior, lifetime earnings, and quality of life (not to mention a miserable school experience). It is necessary to keep a relentless focus on the achievement of students receiving a tiered intervention.
2. The purpose of data is to answer questions. The overarching question is whether or not these students are closing the gap. Think of the budget – we may still be in the red, but is there a reduction in the deficit? What constitutes being "in the black?" Are we improving at an acceptable rate or going further into the hole?
3. Data based *decision making* is a principle of VTSS. There is a difference between decisions and discussions.
4. The relentless focus is for both identified and non-identified students.

Some suggested "rules of engagement" to get started:

- Start with **Data** only
- Don't bring it up unless you plan to address it
- Limit yourself to five – seven minutes per student
- Make a decision!

Activity

1. Watch the meeting on student 1, school 1. Why would this be considered a non-example?

2. Watch the meeting on student 1, school 2. Why is this considered an example? Any thoughts on making the meeting better?

3. Take out your flow chart. What three things does school 2 have in place on the flow chart that allowed their meeting to be more productive than school 1?