data
driven
districts

DDD DASHBOARD
USER STORIES 2019

Unlocking the power of education data to transform learner outcomes

basic education

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South Africa is undergoing a remarkable journey in its development of becoming a data-driven education system. One of the drivers of this transformation is the Data Driven Districts (DDD) Programme which aims to put quality education data into the hands of education officials who want to improve education outcomes.

The programme was designed to not only increase the quality of education data – but to empower education officials at a variety of levels to use the available data to positively impact South African learners.

The DDD Dashboard provides an online tool where education officials around the country can access innovative, visual representations of real-time learner data.

More than 10 000 education officials at all levels within the system are using the DDD Dashboard to maximise the value of data for their province, district, circuit or school to inform their decisions and interventions.

This booklet contains some of South Africa's data-driven education success stories.

Dashboard User Stories:
Unlocking the Power of Data

NAPE NTSHWENG LAZARUS

Deputy Director for Institutional Governance, Sekhukhune South District, Limpopo

Identifying the root cause of poor performance

The DDD Dashboard is a critical tool in Mr Lazarus' management approach. He uses insights from the DDD Dashboard to drive conversations with schools he supports about their challenges.

With data at the centre of the conversation, both parties are able to objectively brainstorm and develop solutions to the challenges.

The combination of different data points is particularly helpful to assess concerns and formulate interventions. Notes Mr Lazarus: "The DDD Dashboard contains all the information I need about schools. It informs us about performance as well as absenteeism for both learners and educators. **I use it to compare performance of subjects with learners and educator attendance.** Often you find that attendance is 100% but the subject is performing poorly. That is when we need to get to the real cause of poor performance."

A more data-driven understanding of issues helps education officials to dig deeper in the right places, in order **to identify interventions that will address the root cause of challenges.** This is how the power of data is unlocked to transform learner outcomes.

Dashboard User Stories:
Unlocking the Power of Data

CECILIA MUDZANANI

Principal of a small multi-grade school, Niani East Circuit, Limpopo

Targeted interventions in multi-grade classrooms

Ms Mudzanani and her team at Mukununde Primary School in Niani East is committed to achieving the best results of all the small schools in their circuit. With the Foundation Phase (Grades R-3) taught in a single classroom, the teaching team needs to be equipped to target their efforts effectively in order to achieve this goal.

"The DDD Dashboard has been a powerful source of information about the learners and teachers in my school. In a multi-grade class, it is very important for the class teacher to acknowledge and identify learners at risk and those performing poorly. **The DDD Dashboard helps us to** do just that, so that we can **design tailored interventions for struggling learners to aid their progress.**"

NOMPUMELELO ALICIA THUKWANA

Acting Circuit Manager and Senior Education Specialist - Integrated Quality Management System (IQMS) Alfred Nzo East District, Eastern Cape

Effective school management

For Ms Thukwana, who currently plays two roles – that of Senior Education Specialist and acting Circuit Manager – the DDD Dashboard has become an invaluable aid to manage the demands of both positions.

"**I use the DDD Dashboard** to check the operations of schools **to develop a focused support strategy**. I am able to get reports on learner performance per school, per subject, as well as learners at risk in all subjects, progressed and over-age learners. **The DDD Dashboard makes my work very easy** – I encourage my colleagues to use the DDD Dashboard for effective management of schools."

Dashboard User Stories:
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ZANELE ILHAKANELO

Chief Education Specialist: Circuit Management Team Ekurhuleni South District, Gauteng

Data-driven resource allocation

Chief Education Specialist Ihlakanelo uses the DDD Dashboard in a number of different ways, towards different objectives. Firstly, she likes to drive the timely submission of data so that her visits to schools are guided by the most recent information.

Secondly, she relies on a range of reports to keep tabs on key education metrics, most notably teacher and learner attendance, as that has a bearing on performance.

Thirdly, and critically, she uses data insights to drive decisions about resource allocation. "I **have used the DDD Dashboard to request resources from the Curriculum and Learning Unit and to direct facilitators to where support is needed** by schools based on subject performance. With the DDD Dashboard, information is within reach. I am able to have data-based discussions with both my team members and the schools in our portfolio that need urgent attention, and this **helps us to better structure our support for these schools**."

For Ms Ihlakanelo, the DDD Dashboard is a tool that makes her life easier and allows her to work smart. "You no longer have to thumb-suck information. Consulting the DDD Dashboard either daily or once a week puts all the information you need in front of you!"

MR CME SIBISI

Principal, Gauteng

Transparent planning and continuous improvement

The value of the DDD Dashboard in the view of Mr Sibisi is that it enables transparent planning and healthy competition to improve performance while saving time and effort! DDD Dashboard reports offer a starting point for Mr Sibisi's planning. "I read the reports on the DDD Dashboard and start analysing the results. **I can then have data-driven discussions with relevant staff members** where we plan the way forward – **supported by evidence that can also be viewed by any person**."

It doesn't end there. Mr Sibisi **sees significant benefit in comparative assessments to fuel continuous improvement at his school**. "I compare our results with the surrounding schools, engage with other nearby principals and we compete for improvement! **I learn from other schools** outside my perimeter of operation and note problem areas and engage the personnel in charge of supporting them." Using the DDD Dashboard has enabled a peer community of practice to emerge quite organically, to the benefit of all who participate.

Mr Sibisi further adds that **the DDD Dashboard improves efficiency.** "Going through files and perusing manual documents can waste time. The DDD Dashboard saves ample time and information can be printed or used as screenshots. T**he work can be done anywhere at any time in the comfort of your home or office.** You just need connectivity!"

Key Quotes

Convenient and user-friendly tool
"The DDD Dashboard helps me to work faster. With the click of a button, I can extract a report at any time from wherever I am. I have become more efficient: I can access a report and print it or make a presentation at any given time. The data is always at my disposal!"
Lizzie Shiburi
Circuit Manager
Johannesburg Central District

Curriculum support
"The DDD Dashboard is an excellent tool to improve curriculum delivery. You can minimise work hours by downloading reports. I have found value in using the data to assist Curriculum to identify learners at risk."
Elizebeth Erasmus
Deputy Chief Education Specialist:
Curriculum Information Analysis

Personalised learner and educator support
"I use the DDD Dashboard to select learners that need to participate in enhancement programmes at our school. I also support my teachers with the knowledge that they need to tailor lessons to fit these learners."
Daniel Malindi
Head of Department Katlehong
Technical school

Faster response to data requests
"I use the DDD Dashboard to respond to queries that relate to, for example, requests for the GPS co-ordinates of schools. Thanks to the DDD Dashboard, I'm able to respond to these requests faster!"
Jabulani Dlamini
Deputy Chief Education Specialist
Umkhanyakude District

Data verification
"The DDD Dashboard provides a summary of subject performance per school or circuit. I download the subject mark schedule to check the veracity of the marks against the recording sheets at the school."
Benjamin Nkosi
Subject Advisor for Creative Arts
Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga

New management discipline
"The use of the DDD Dashboard has become a standing item in the agenda for the principals' meetings in my circuit."
Lizzie Shiburi
Circuit Manager
Johannesburg Central District

Dashboard User Stories:
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NTOMBIKAYISE MASEMULA

Chief Education Specialist for the Further Education and Training Phase (FET) Nkangala District, Mpumalanga

Managing a multi-faceted portfolio

"I am responsible for Curriculum in the FET band, as well as Public Examinations and Assessments for Grades 1-12. These two divisions are critical to the delivery of education outcomes and they both require significant attention. The DDD Dashboard is proving invaluable in helping me to effectively and efficiently manage the volume of work in curriculum and examinations."

In her dual role, Ms. Masemula finds the DDD Dashboard particularly helpful to:

- **Monitor the factors that impact learner performance**, namely teacher and learner attendance and curriculum coverage at each school, per subject.

- **Develop Subject Performance Improvement Plans** (Grades 10-12), District Learner Performance Improvement Plans as well as intervention strategies aimed at improving learner performance in Grades 1-12, **based on data**.

- **Gather information** on the various categories of learners **to create informed intervention strategies**, i.e. progressed learners, as well as learners with learning barriers who require examination concessions.

She has seen the practical and tangible impact of using the DDD Dashboard on a number of fronts:

- **Improved learner performance**:
  "Our district's learner performance improved in 2018 because we could access information and monitor our schools and re-visit our intervention strategies based on the analysis of the information on the DDD Dashboard."

- **Deliberate and informed target setting**:
  "Because of the experience I have had using the DDD Dashboard, I have made it a point that in 2019 all the Subject Advisors must have access to the DDD Dashboard. In Nkangala District we are aiming to improve learner performance by more than 10% in Grade 12 in 2019 and we will use the DDD Dashboard to achieve this."

- **Saving time**:
  "I have limited time to write circulars to schools requesting information. Thanks to the DDD Dashboard it now takes me only a few hours to access information on the performance of my schools."

Dashboard User Stories:
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BENJAMIN NKOSI

Subject Advisor for Creative Arts Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga

Data-driven resource allocation

Informed school visits
"I have been using the DDD Dashboard intensively for the past two years. **I plan and gather all the necessary information about** a school before embarking on the on-site school visit. I gather general information such as the number of learners in the grade, the number of learners enrolled at the school, the EMIS number, etc. and I also gather information on performance trends of the school."

Data verification
The DDD Dashboard provides a summary of subject performance per school or circuit. I download the subject mark schedule to **check the veracity of the marks** against the recording sheets at the school.

DDD advocacy
"I want to encourage all School Management Teams to use the DDD Dashboard. With DDD Dashboard you can analyse and process assessment data **quicker, faster and better**."

DANIEL MALINDI

Head of Department Katlehong Technical school, Gauteng

Tailored support for educators and learners

"I use the DDD Dashboard to select learners that need to participate in enhancement programmes at our school. I also **support my teachers with the knowledge that they need to tailor lessons to fit these learners.** I use the DDD Dashboard to run my academic programmes with proper data-driven knowledge. It helps me to target different learners' abilities and respond accordingly."

Identifying individual development areas
"I use the DDD Dashboard to filter learners per subject in order to inform me of their strengths and weak points. Where appropriate, **I can support learners who require further development**. I know my learners individually because I look at their different capabilities before planning any lesson"

"The DDD Dashboard is MY TOOL and I look very smart when presenting my intervention strategies."

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ERIC SIYOLO MAYEKISO

Principal of Goqwana Junior Secondary School, Eastern Cape

Recognising performance

Mr Mayekiso of Goqwana Junior Secondary School lists three advantages that the DDD Dashboard has delivered; the ability to identify and recognise strong performance, pinpoint areas for intervention, and leverage competition for better results.

"The DDD Dashboard is a tool that displays my school's information so I am able to **monitor the performance of all levels** in the schooling system. It allows me to give credit to the best performing subjects and educators and as such the level of performance in our school has improved."

He notes that the DDD Dashboard is spot on, **highlighting areas that need intervention** without having to call on others (like IT specialists) to help him. The availability of information across the grade spectrum is valuable, and visually, the DDD Dashboard's red lights assist in identifying where the problem is. "As such, I am able make informed decisions."

He also appreciates the constructive competition the DDD Dashboard enables. "**The DDD Dashboard challenges us to work hard**. As officials we are able to quickly see how the school is performing. This has created healthy competition amongst educators."

"The DDD Dashboard excites me because the information that you put into SA-SAMS is culminated in a holistic view of all facets that can improve curriculum delivery which is critical to improving learner performance."

LIZZIE SHIBURI

**Circuit Manager
Johannesburg Central District, Gauteng**

Supporting learners at risk

For Ms Shiburi, the DDD Dashboard provides a clear profile of learner dynamics. She credits the tool with changing the way in which she works with schools.

"Instead of asking for information from a school, I bring data to the school for discussion. **The DDD Dashboard has empowered me** and I am well informed when visiting a school.
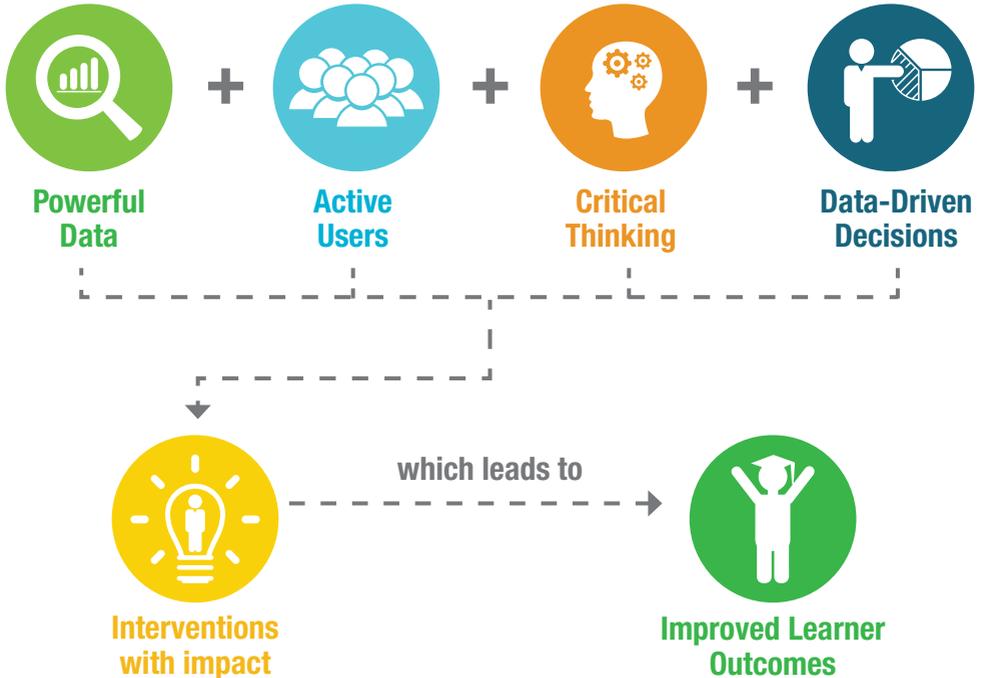
By extracting the Learner Chart Report, I track Grade 12 learner performance and **I am able to identify high risk learners at a particular school**. I use the Attrition Report to view the enrolment of the school, check how many learners have been promoted per grade, how many were not promoted in each grade and how many learners were progressed.

Now I can inform a school about learners at risk and their attrition rate. **Together we're able to objectively discuss the data with the intention of formulating data-driven guidance and support."**

"There are many reports readily available on the DDD Dashboard for use by all district officials and principals.

If you want to work smart not hard, use the DDD Dashboard."

Are you ready to use data to transform learner outcomes?

Powerful Data + **Active Users** + **Critical Thinking** + **Data-Driven Decisions**

Interventions with impact — which leads to → **Improved Learner Outcomes**

Whether you're an active DDD Dashboard user, new to the DDD Dashboard or want an introduction to the power of quality data available on the DDD Dashboard, the DDD Team is here to help you get the most out of education data.

Visit www.dbedashboard.co.za today!
For more information, login details or to recover a forgotten password, email
Help@dbedashboard.co.za

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