Six Building Blocks to Predictive Analytics

Goals: What do you want to accomplish with predictive analytics? Any goals that are developed should be specific and objective. Predictive analytics are best utilized when tracking the progress of defined and measurable goals. For example, rather than a general goal of “ensure our students are more prepared for college” a more specific goal could identify a targeted increase for District SAT scores.

Measures: How are you tracking your goals? Once your goals are in place the next step is to determine the measures that you will use to track your progress. GPA, attendance, and assessment scores are a few of the measures that can be used for your analytics solution.

Assessments: How are you tracking learning? Assessments allow you to track the progress of each of your students in a variety of subjects. Formative, Summative, and College Prepatory exams provide a holistic view of student performance and are a vital component to a strong analytics solution.

Data: What information do you need to track and is it accessible? A common problem is that the data needed to perform the analyses is located in various repositories. Consolidating data in a centralized location is a critical (and often daunting) task to make the most of predictive analytics.

Indicators: How do you know when to intervene? A valuable predictive analytics solution will allow you to proactively identify students who may be at risk for not meeting the goals that are in place. Finding and tracking the correct set of indicators allows you to intervene earlier, which in turn will increase the chances of intervention success.

Training: How do you utilize your information? Any analytics solution should have a rigorous training component. Well-constructed training programs not only teach end-users how to make the most of the tool, but will also increase the chance of buy-in.