

# Making Improvements

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## INFORMATION BRIEF:

### *Exploring useful skills for educators to develop through collaborative evaluation*

Participating in evaluation work allows educators to build or enhance a wide variety of useful and transferable skills. These include:

- Planning long-term tasks, timelines, and assignment of responsibilities
- Conceptually outlining essential questions to be addressed through evaluation
- Communicating with multiple constituencies the purposes and importance of specified work
- Active listening—helping others voice their thinking through effective paraphrasing and probing
- Developing effective data gathering instruments that address questions in an objective, non-leading manner
- Analyzing quantitative and qualitative data
- Presenting quantitative and qualitative data in purposeful ways that clearly communicate major findings to others
- Collaborating with colleagues and others in positive inquiry practices, valuing each person's unique contribution and viewpoint
- Putting aside personal biases for the sake of seeking answers to hard questions for the good of the students in your schools
- Putting aside defensive postures in the face of evaluation findings
- Reflecting on school and classroom policies and practices with an open mind
- Drawing conclusions and implications based on data gathered