

To Whom It May Concern:

Napa County Office of Education's (NCOE) Professional Learning Network (PLN), a collective of countywide school district administrators, worked with Steve Rees and Michael O'Neil from K12 Measures/School Wise Press in interactive in-person and webinar training sessions over the course of six months. The concepts, tools, and processes presented and explored during our time together helped our PLN participants increase our assessment literacy and analytical competency skills. The scope and sequence of the K12 Measures' trainings helped PLN team members develop expertise in data analytics by exploring and using data organizing tools, data visualization, and data story telling techniques.

As part of the training content, Steve and Michael introduced us to our K12 Measures' Assessment and Planning Explorer Workbooks, custom built to help districts compare local data with those of comparable districts across California. Using the Assessment and Planning Explorer Workbooks, the training duo helped us improve our interpretation of data, visually present findings more persuasively, and better interpret historical information to improve local growth forecasts. The workbooks helped our PLN members compare their student demographic and academic data with those of similar districts for better decision making with goal setting, priority selection, and strategic resource alignment. Participants reported that the workbooks helped them organize data more easily to better see patterns and trends for analysis.

Our PLN members also walked away from the K12 Measures/School Wise Press trainings with the ability to present complex evidence more persuasively to a variety of stakeholders using a data storytelling framework and data visualization techniques. Those techniques proved to be very useful for planning local LCAP stakeholder engagement sessions and helping to assess and develop future growth goals for the new LCAP cycle. The duo also helped our team broaden our perspective of meaningful data by looking strategically at the pitfalls of quantitative evidence, and the over-reliance on summative data.

Steve and Michael are knowledgeable and skilled presenters. They were willing to adapt and modify their content to meet the needs of our participants within the timeframe of our work. As a result, our PLN participants reported that they are more confident in their abilities to conduct, draw conclusions, and present findings from statistical analyses. Napa County PLN would recommend Steve and Michael's expert services for any state, county, and school district assessment professional.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucy Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Lucy Edwards

Director of Continuous Improvement and Academic Support

Napa County Office of Education