



Strengthening Skills for Data-Informed Governance

Discussion Guide for Module 0: Introduction to Data-Informed Governance Learning Modules

Purpose & Overview

This discussion guide is designed to help you apply the concepts from Module 0 to your own governance practice. As you learned in the module, data-informed governance empowers trustees to make better policy and resource allocation decisions by asking not just what the data says, but why it matters, how it aligns with institutional priorities, and what the broader implications might be.

Key Points to Remember

Data-informed governance is:

- Cyclical & Dynamic – Guided by the nine-step DIG Framework
- Strategic – Focused on governance-level decisions, not on operations
- Collaborative – Requires effective board-CEO partnership
- Time-bound – Have clear deadlines that create urgency for change

Before You Begin

- Review the introductory video for the learning series *Building Data Competency for Texas Trustees*
- Complete the pre-assessment

Discussion Questions

1. Reflecting on your pre-assessment responses, what aspects of data-informed governance do you feel most confident about? What areas present the greatest opportunities for growth?

Consider:

- Which pre-assessment questions did you rate highest?
- Which questions did you rate lowest?

2. Based on your current board practices, how well does your board currently apply the DIG Framework to governance and decision-making?

Consider:

- Do you have clear, strategic objectives that guide your data requests?
- Does your board analyze data before making policy decisions?

3. What challenges exist at your college to support a data-informed approach to governance?

Consider:

- What barriers did you identify from the reflection questions in your pre-assessment?
- Are these challenges related to data availability, board capacity, institutional culture, or other factors?