

# *Positive Behaviour for Learning School-wide*



## **Using Data to Make Decisions**

Rob Horner, University of Oregon, [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org)

- **Objectives**

1. Define the elements of effective decision-making
2. How to transform “data” into useful information
3. One rubric for using data in decision-making
4. Considerations for the data your team needs?

## Build “Decision-Systems” not Data Systems

The data will guide you to ask the right questions, but your knowledge about the children, system, faculty, and families is critical for effective academic and social decisions.

**Big Idea:**

**Data are  
necessary but  
insufficient**

## *Collective Goal:*

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which school teams use data to make academic and behavior support decisions.

## *Assumptions:*

Every school has teams that meet regularly to improve academic and behavior support

- \* 2500+ primary and secondary schools in New Zealand
- \* 450,000 person-hours/year spent in meetings.

Decisions will be more effective, efficient, and culturally sensitive if they are based on local, accurate, timely information

The data available to teams is increasing in **amount, quality and precision** (academic and behavior support)

To scale-up PB4L we need not just better data, but better protocols for team-based decision-making.

- Effective Decision-Making







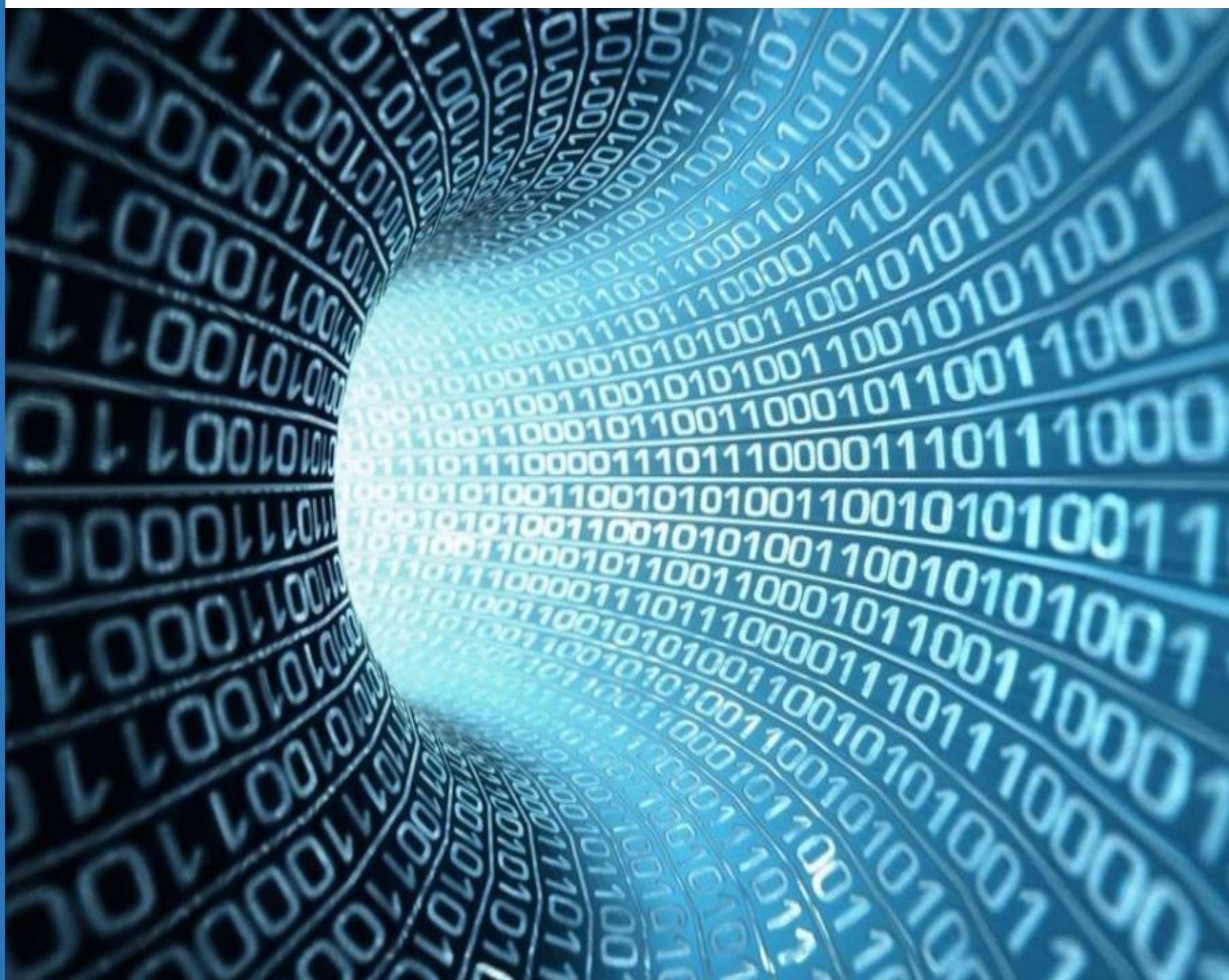
# Challenge: Data Overload







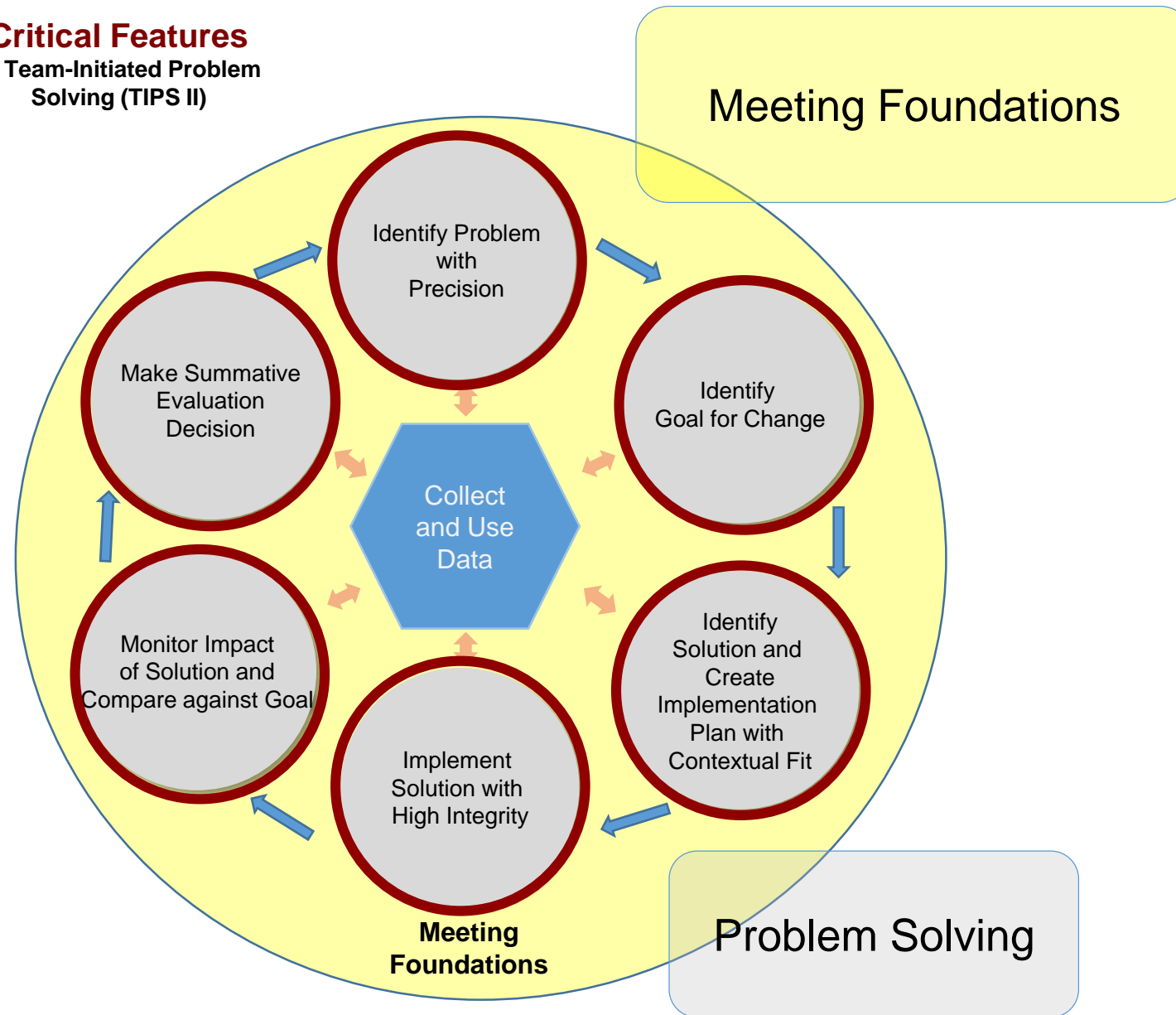
**Challenge:**  
**The Black**  
**Hole of**  
**Administrivia**



**Critical Features**  
of Team-Initiated Problem  
Solving (TIPS II)

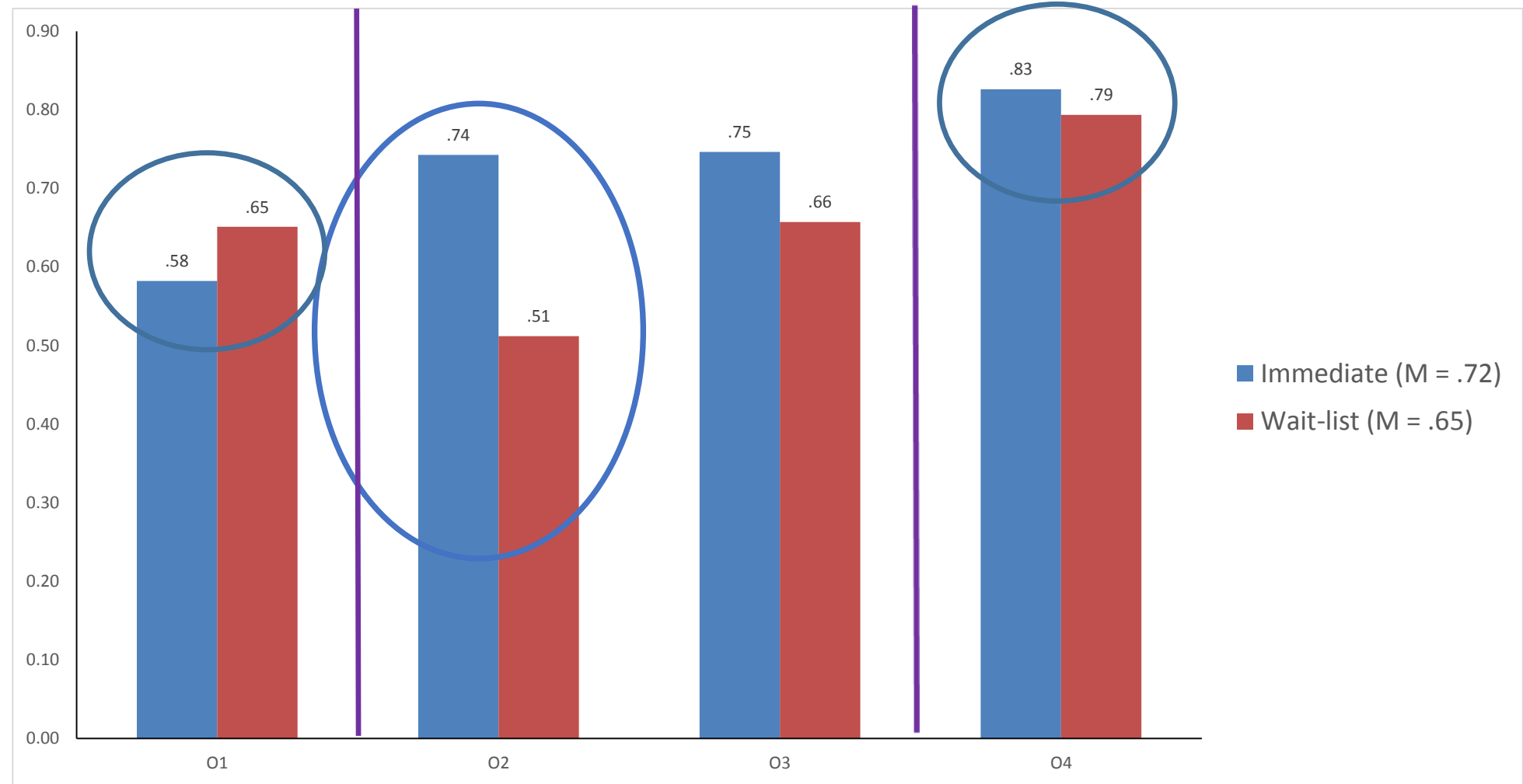
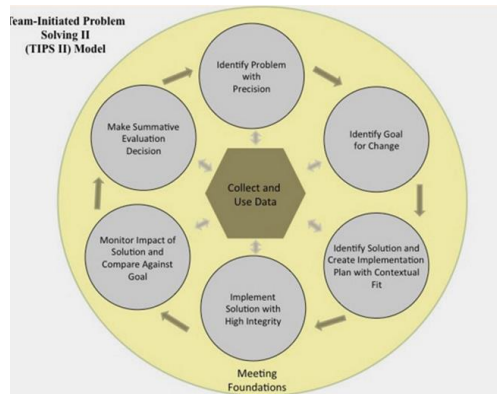


- One Approach:  
Team Initiated  
Problem Solving  
TIPS





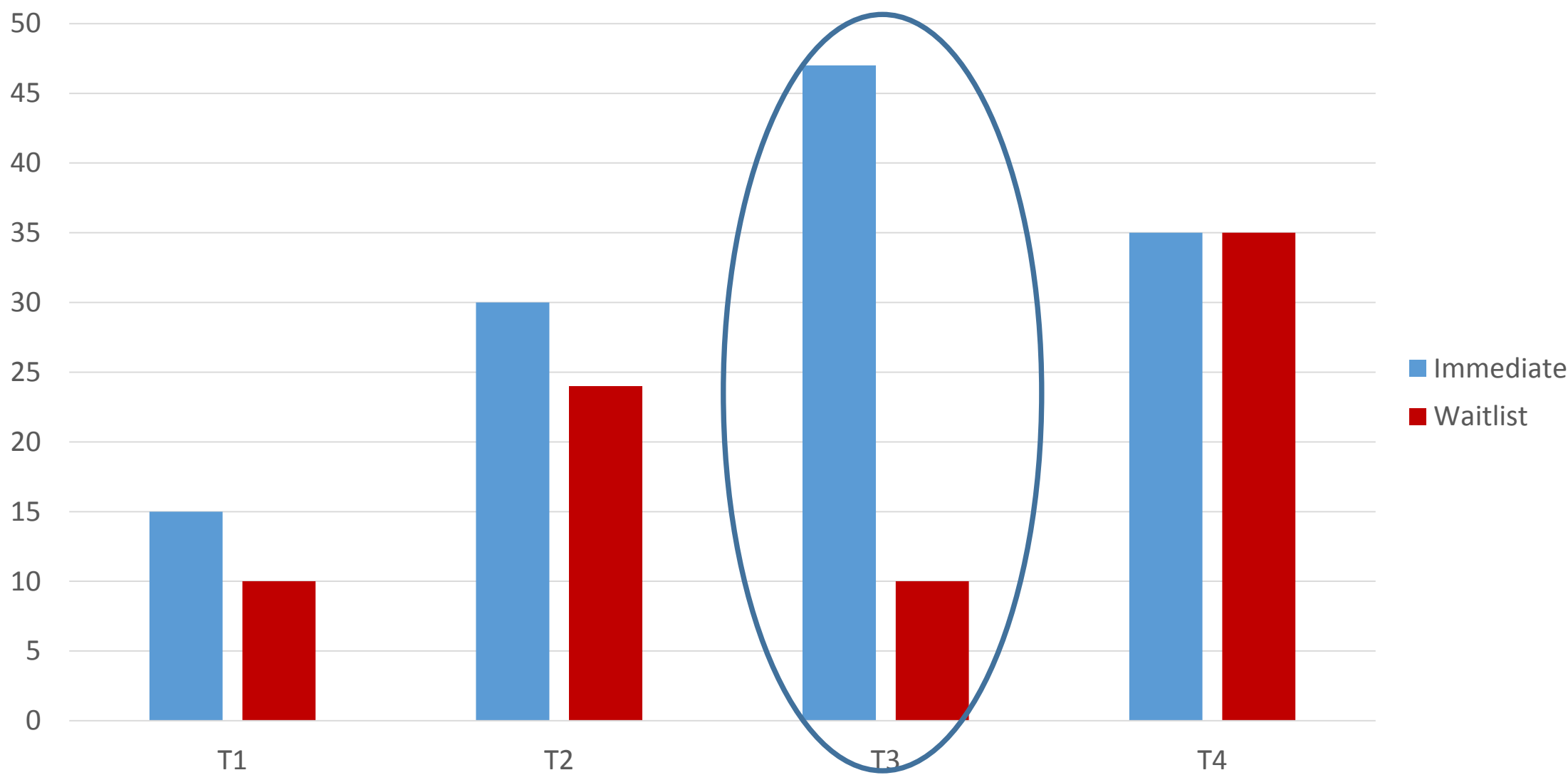
DORA: Problem Solving Score ( $t_{02} = 3.03, df = 36, p < .05, ES = .87$ )



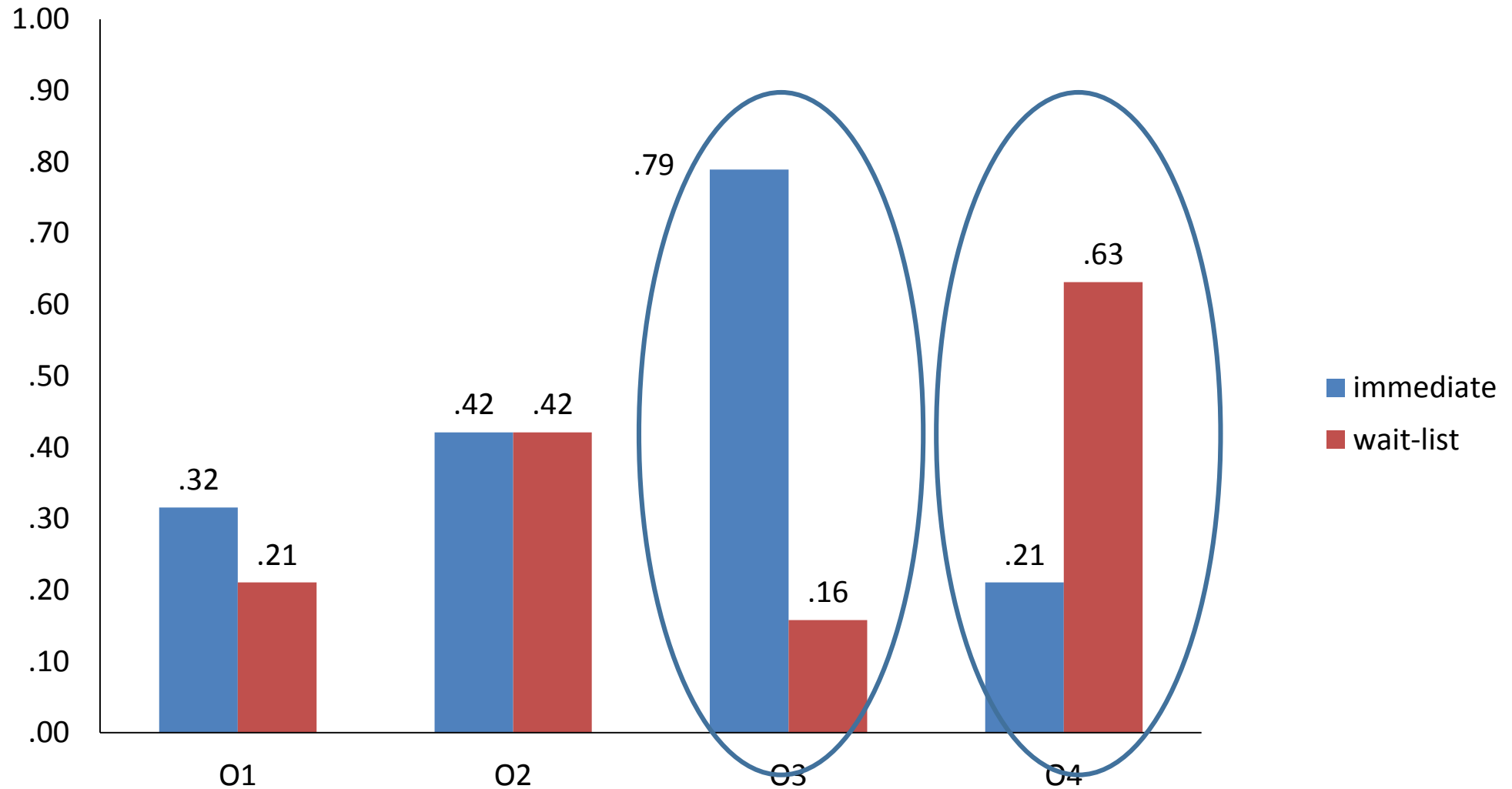
Horner, R., Newton, J.S., Todd, A., Algozzine, B., Algozzine, K., Cusumano, D., & Preston, A.I. (in press). A randomized wait-list controlled analysis of team problem solving.



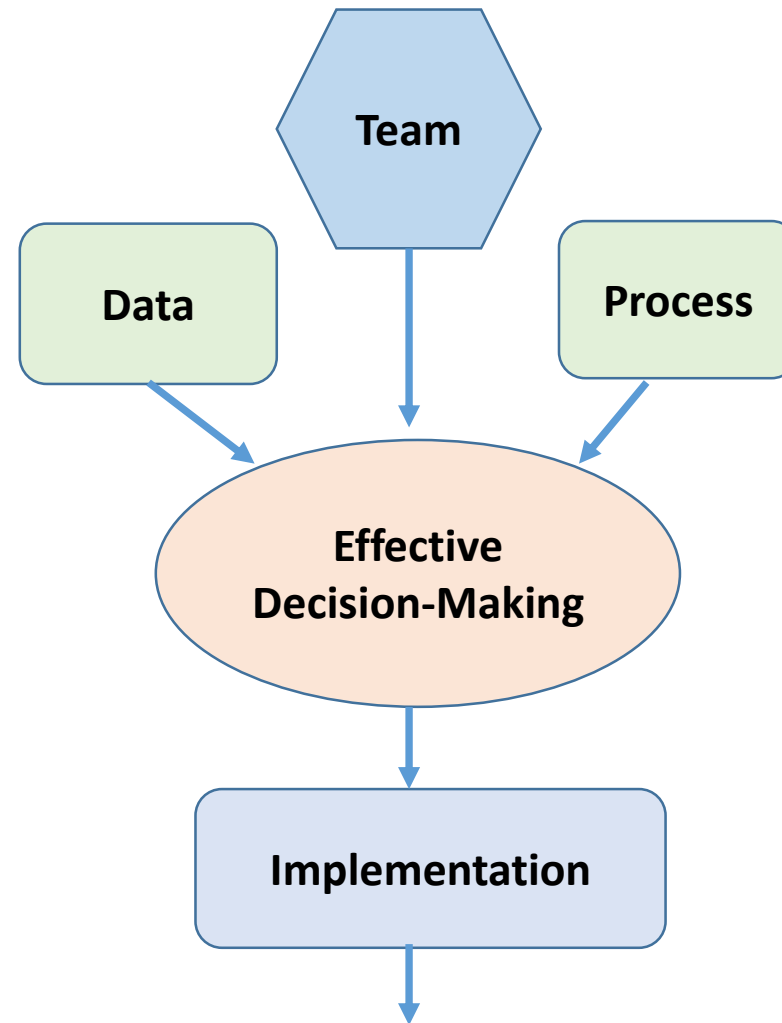
DORA: Proportion of Teams Implementing Solutions with Integrity  
( $\chi^2 = 6.21$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $V = .34$ )



DORA: Proportion of solutions benefiting students  
( $X^2 = 4.40$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $V = .28$ )



# Build Decision Systems not Data Systems



Membership, Responsibility,  
Authority, Opportunity

Information, Decision-Making

Identify “Problems”  
Select Solutions/ Action Plans

Resources, Review, Adaptation

- Effective Decision-making



Student Outcomes





# • Decision Making



# Decision Making



## *Identification of a problem*

School pattern, classroom pattern,  
group pattern, student pattern

## *Develop Solutions / Action Plan*

Prevention, teaching, reward,  
extinction, correction, evaluation

## *Implement and Adapt Solutions*

Fidelity, effect, efficiency, alterations



# Problem Solving

- *Identify* current status

A “Problem” is any observed difference between what is expected (desired) and what is actual

- *Problem Solving* starts by defining a problem with precision

## What

- behaviors are a barrier and **how often** are they performed?

## Where

- are the behaviors most and least likely

## When

- are the problem behaviors are most and least likely

## Who

- is engaging in the behaviors

## Why

- do the behaviors keep occurring?





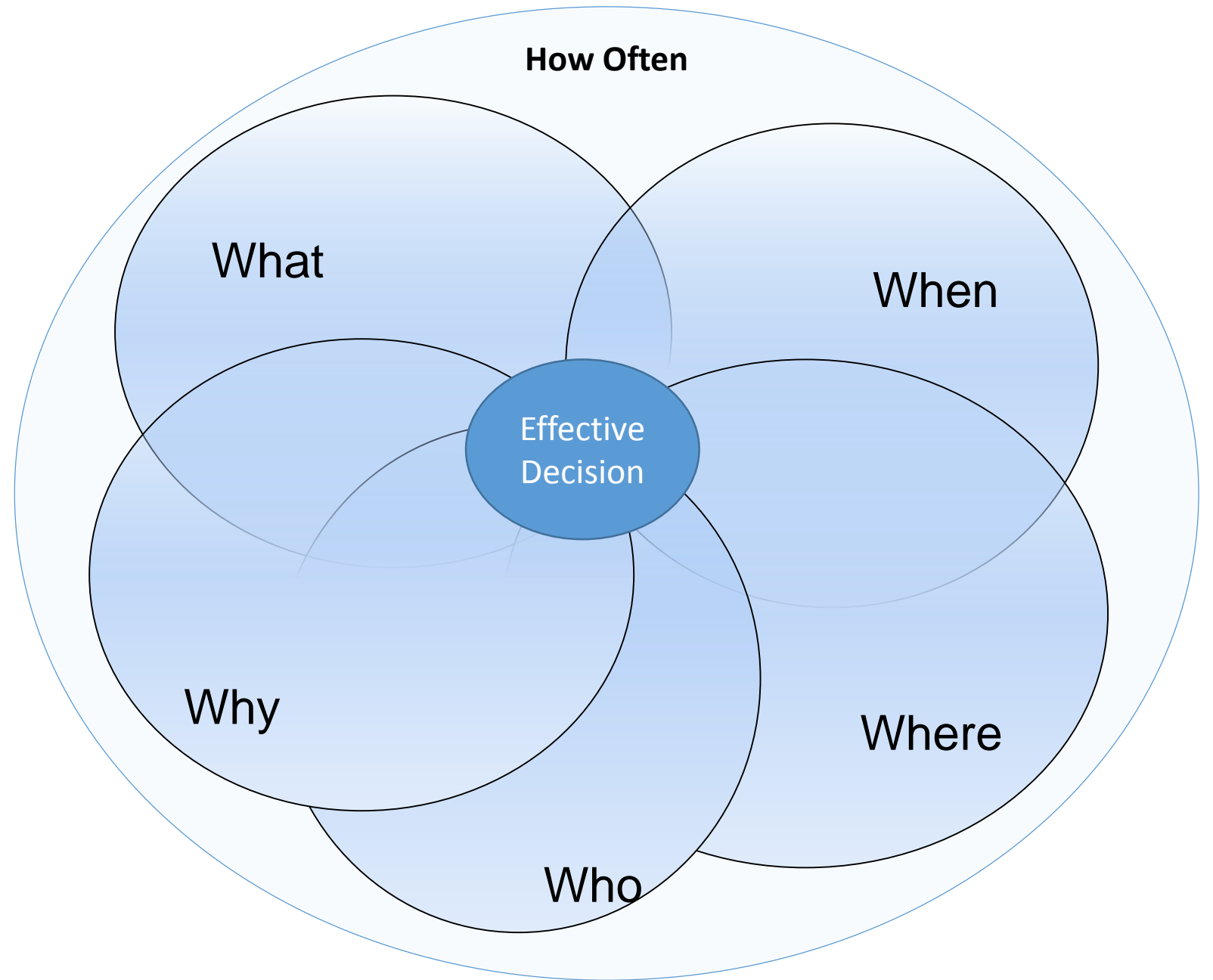
# Defining a Problem with Precision

- A major error is to launch into problem solving BEFORE the problem has been defined with precision.
- **Selecting solutions without precise problem statement**
  - What we did last year
  - What my cousin did with her son
  - What I can buy (or download) on the internet
  - What I can buy from a catalog
- **These solutions**
  - Often do not work
  - Usually are more expensive
  - Typically do not “fit” the context.

Implementing Behavior Support without taking the time to define a problem behavior with precision is as likely to produce plans that make things worse as plans that make things better.



# Defining a Problem with Precision





# Defining a Problem with Precision

## Primary

Indicates a difference between what is happening and what is desired.

Too much aggression in cafeteria

## Precise

What, Who, Where, When, Why, and How Often

3-5 ODRs for aggression per day from 5-8 students who yell and hit in the cafeteria after they are done with lunch. Appears related to getting peer attention





# Defining a Problem with Precision

- **Primary Statements**

- Too many referrals
- September has more suspensions than last year
- Gang behavior is increasing
- The cafeteria is out of control
- Student disrespect for teachers is outrageous

- **Precision Statement**

- **There are twice as many ODRs for aggression on the playground** than last year. These are most likely to occur during **first recess**, with a **large number of students**, and the aggression is related **to getting access to the new playground equipment**.



## Defining a Problem with Precision

Who, What, Where, When, Why  
(How often)

- Darin uses sexually explicit language in the classroom. This is creating a climate of disrespect and incivility.

**Primary**

- Tantrums in the van are creating unsafe travel.

**Primary**



# Defining a Problem with Precision

Who, What, Where, When, Why  
(How often)

- James D. is hitting others in the cafeteria during lunch at least five times a week, and his hitting is maintained by peer attention.

**Precise**

- Boys are engaging in sexual harassment.

**Primary**

- Three 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys are name calling and touching girls inappropriately during recess in an apparent attempt to obtain attention. This is occurring at least 5 times a week.

**Precise**



# Defining a Problem with Precision

- Define a **PRIMARY** problem
- Transform that description in to **PRECISE** problem statement.
  - Who
  - What
  - Where
  - When
  - Why
  - How Often

Define a Precise  
Academic  
Problem





# Problem Solving

## Effective Problem Solving Using Data

1. First identify if there is a problem

*Difference between observed and expected behavior.*

2. Define the problem with precision

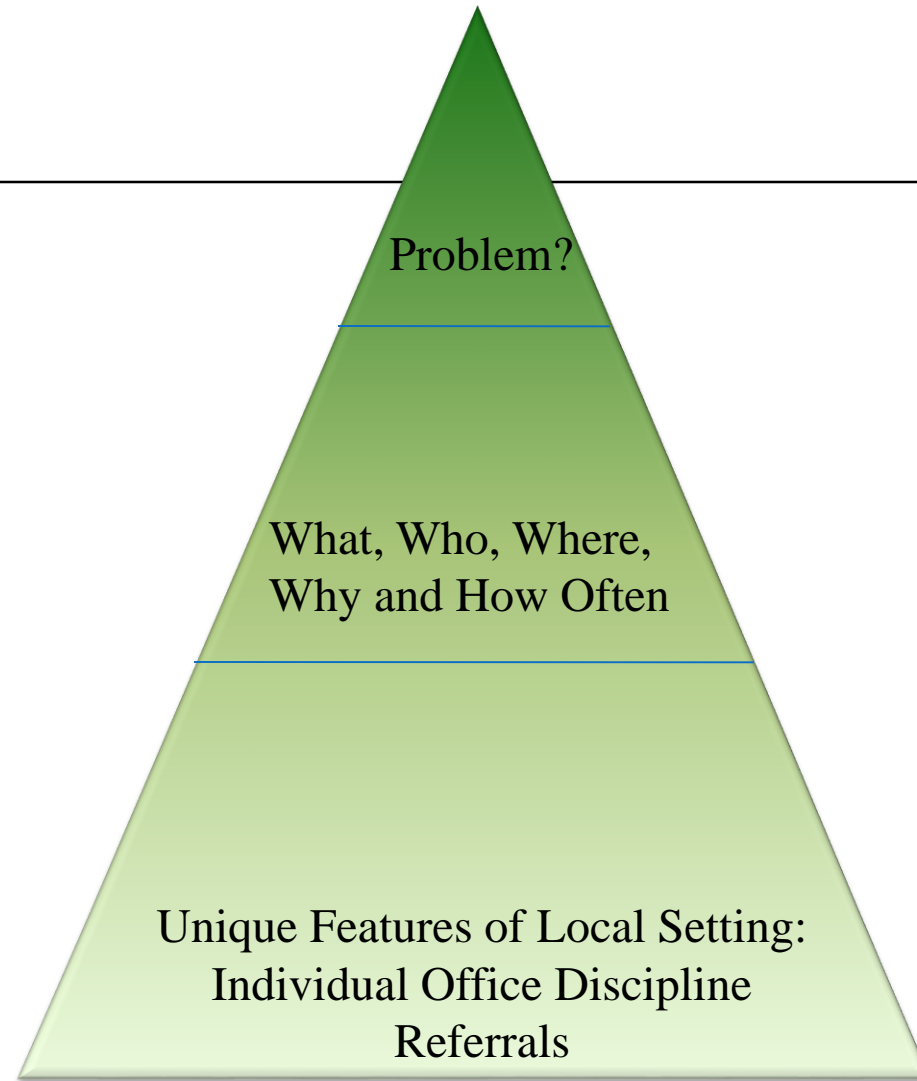
*Who, What, Where, When, Why & (How often)*

3. Build solution that is practical, instructional and functional.

*Based on behavioral function, comprehensive, and fits with team values, skills, resources and administrative support.*

# Gilbert Decision Hierarchy

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# Using Data to Solve Problems:

**Problem ?**

**Define with Precision**

(Who, What, Where, When, Why and How Often)

**Admin.  
Decision**

**Motivation**

**Grade Level**

**Others  
Involved**

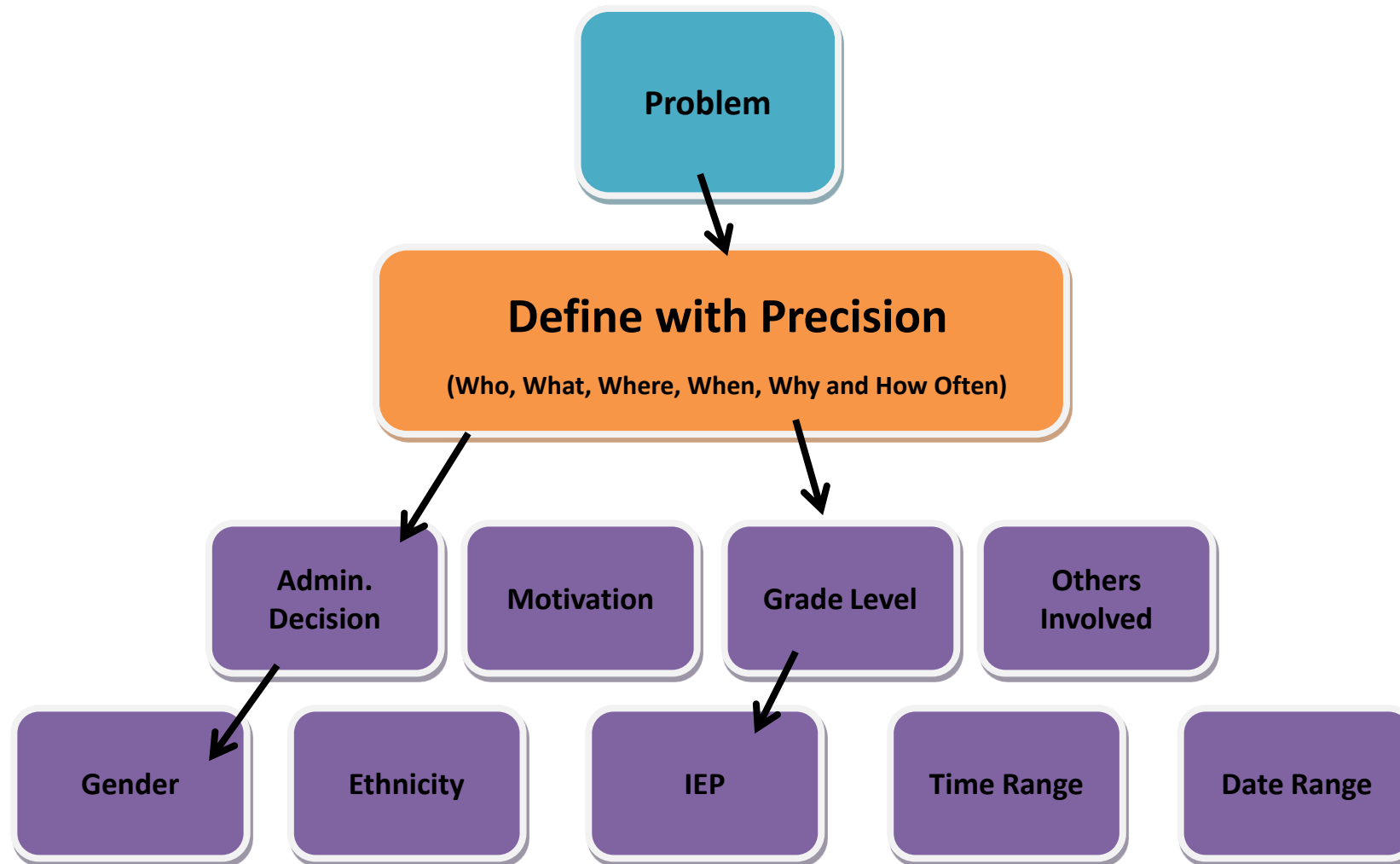
**Gender**

**Ethnicity**

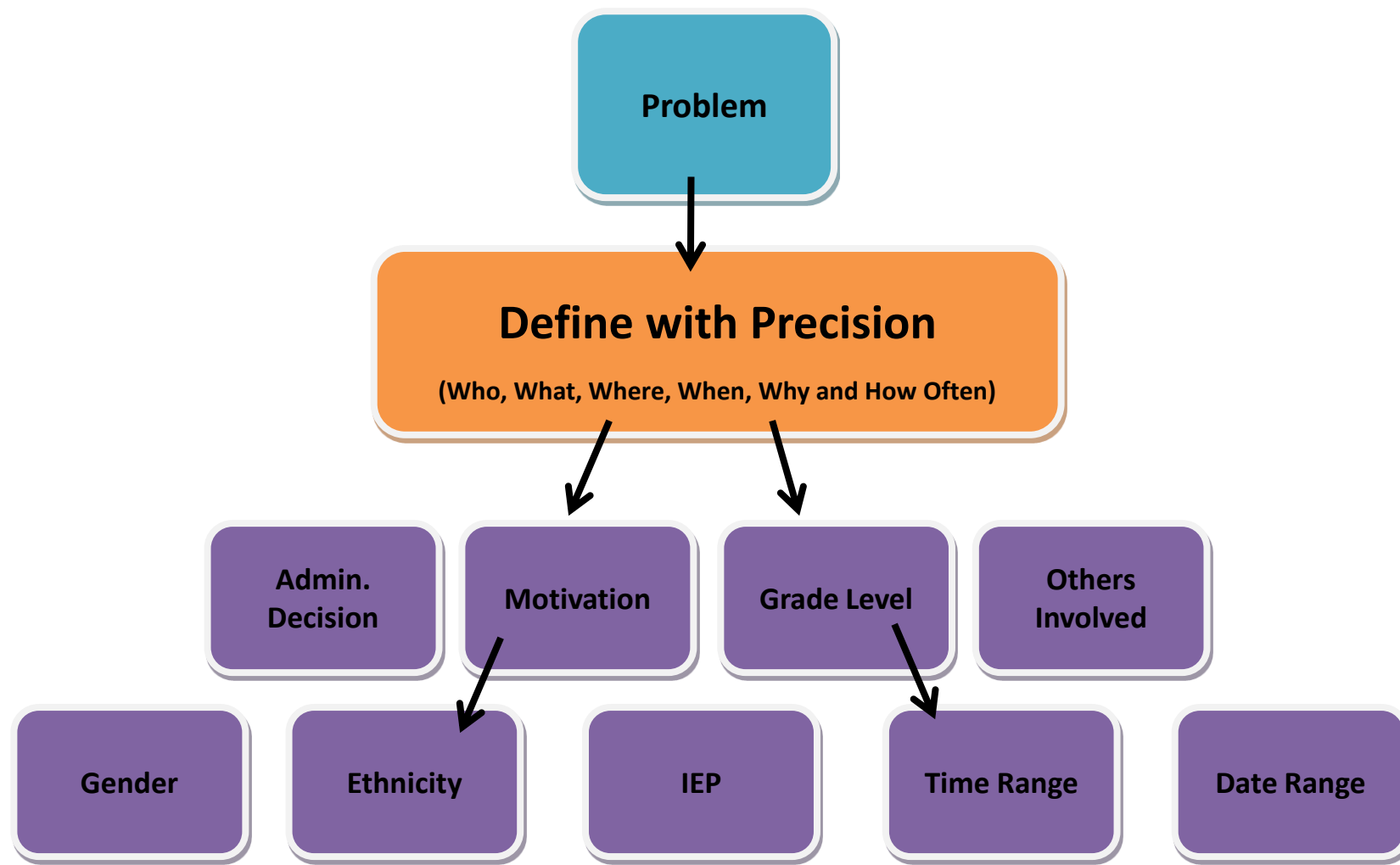
**IEP**

**Time Range**

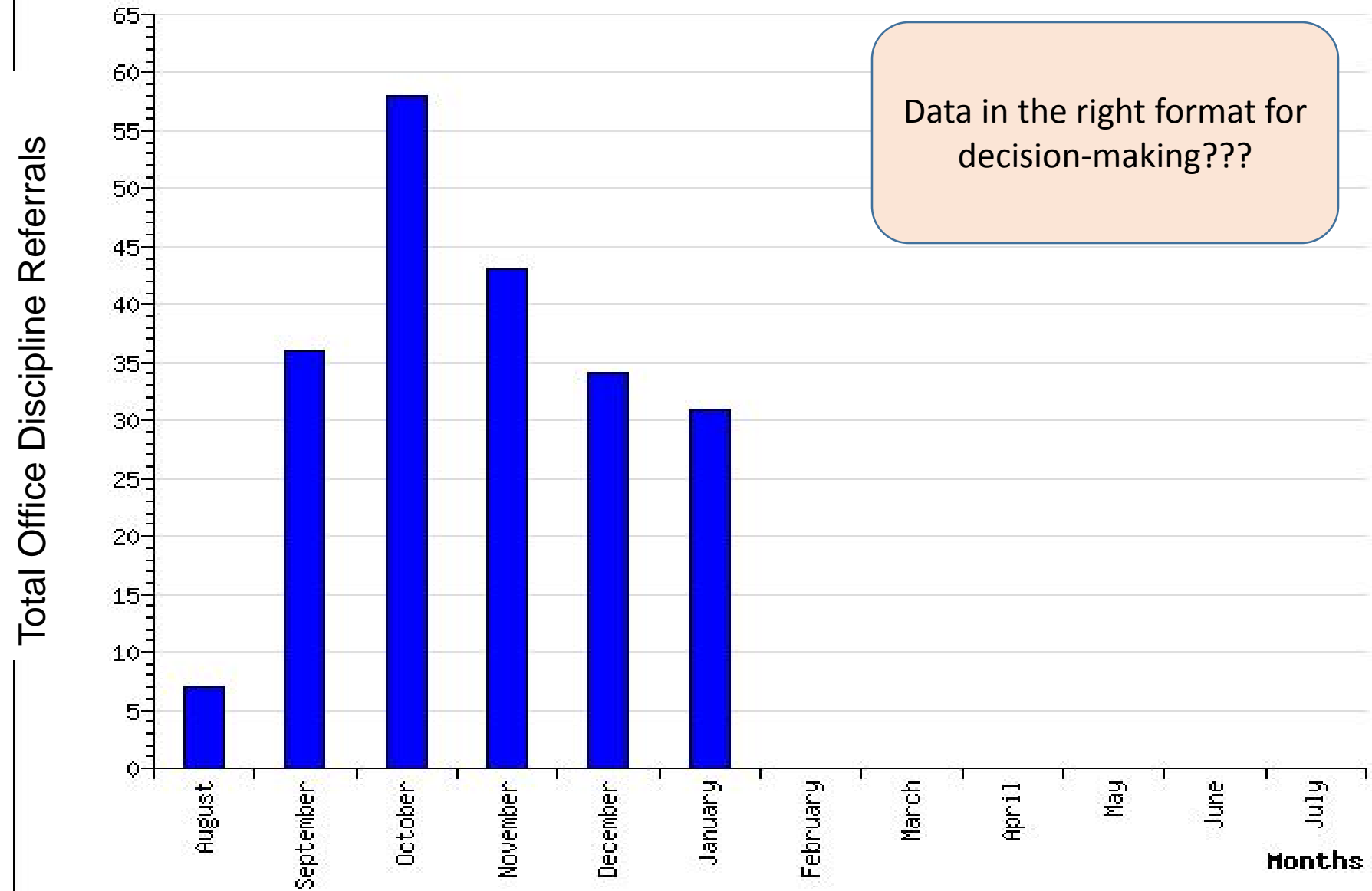
**Date Range**







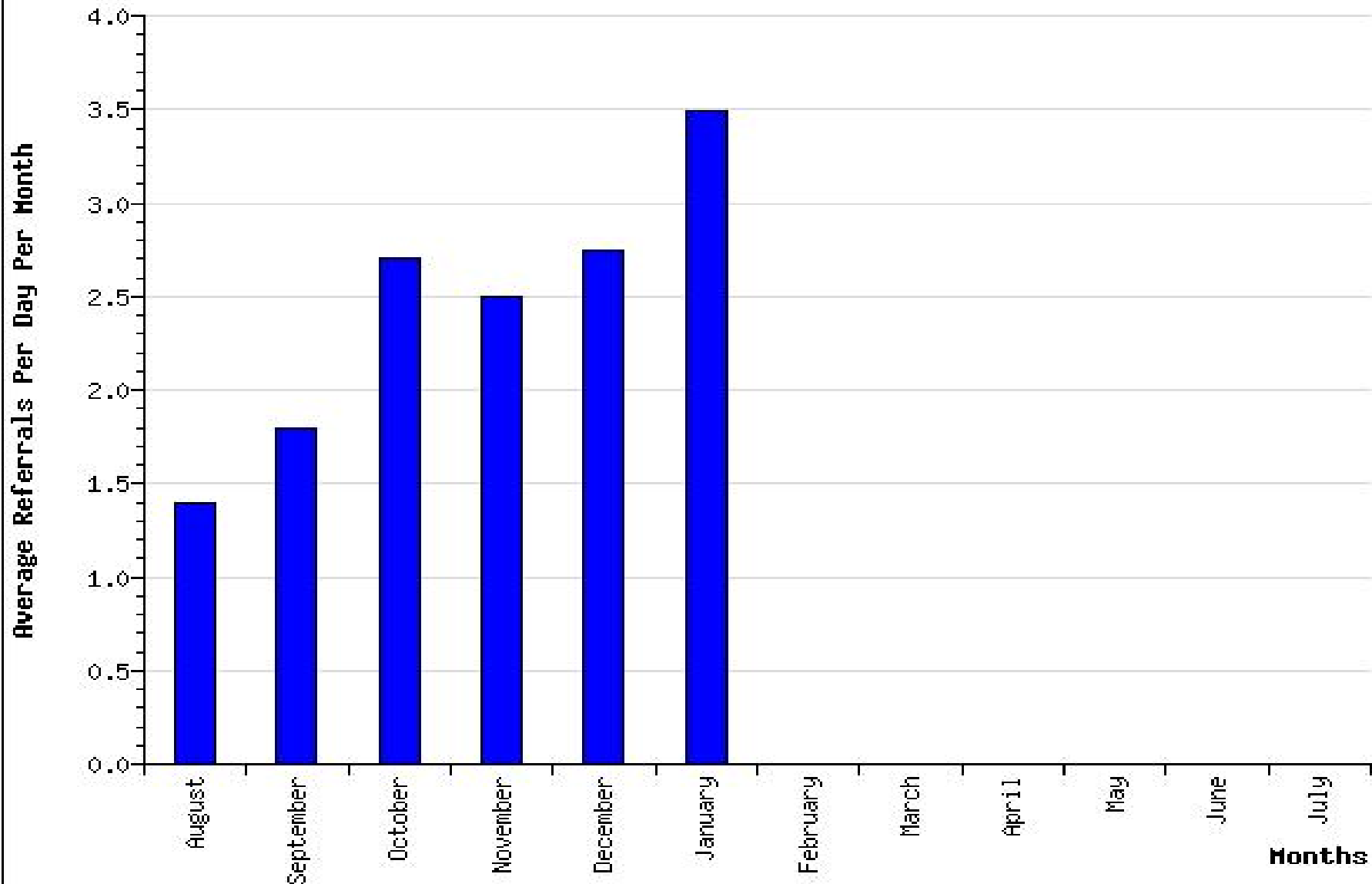
## Total Office Discipline Referrals as of January 10



0

# Average Referrals Per Day Per Month

Average Office Discipline Referrals per day per month as of January 10



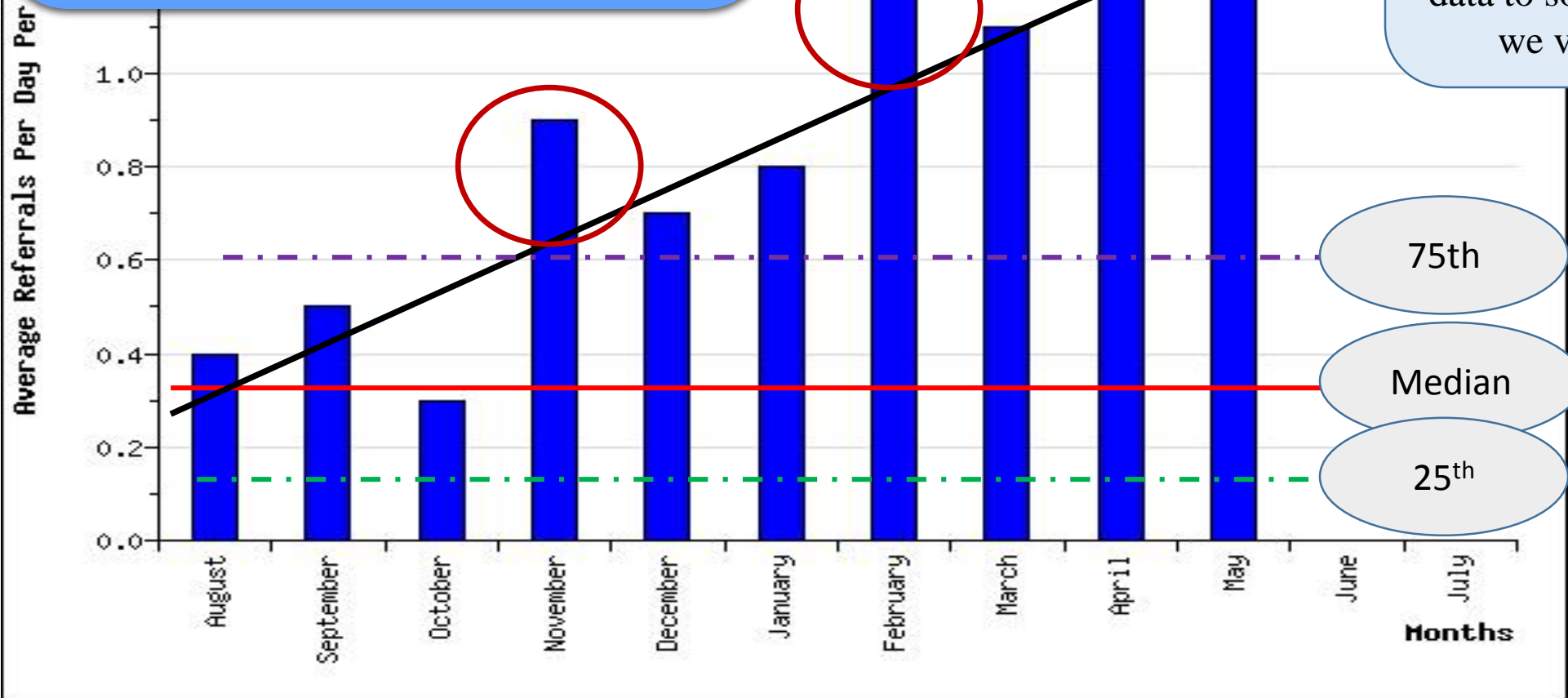
## Questions to Ask of the Data

What is happening?

What is typical?

What is possible?

What is needed?



Use the data to tell a story.

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A story gives meaning to data by attaching the data to something we value





# Problem Solving

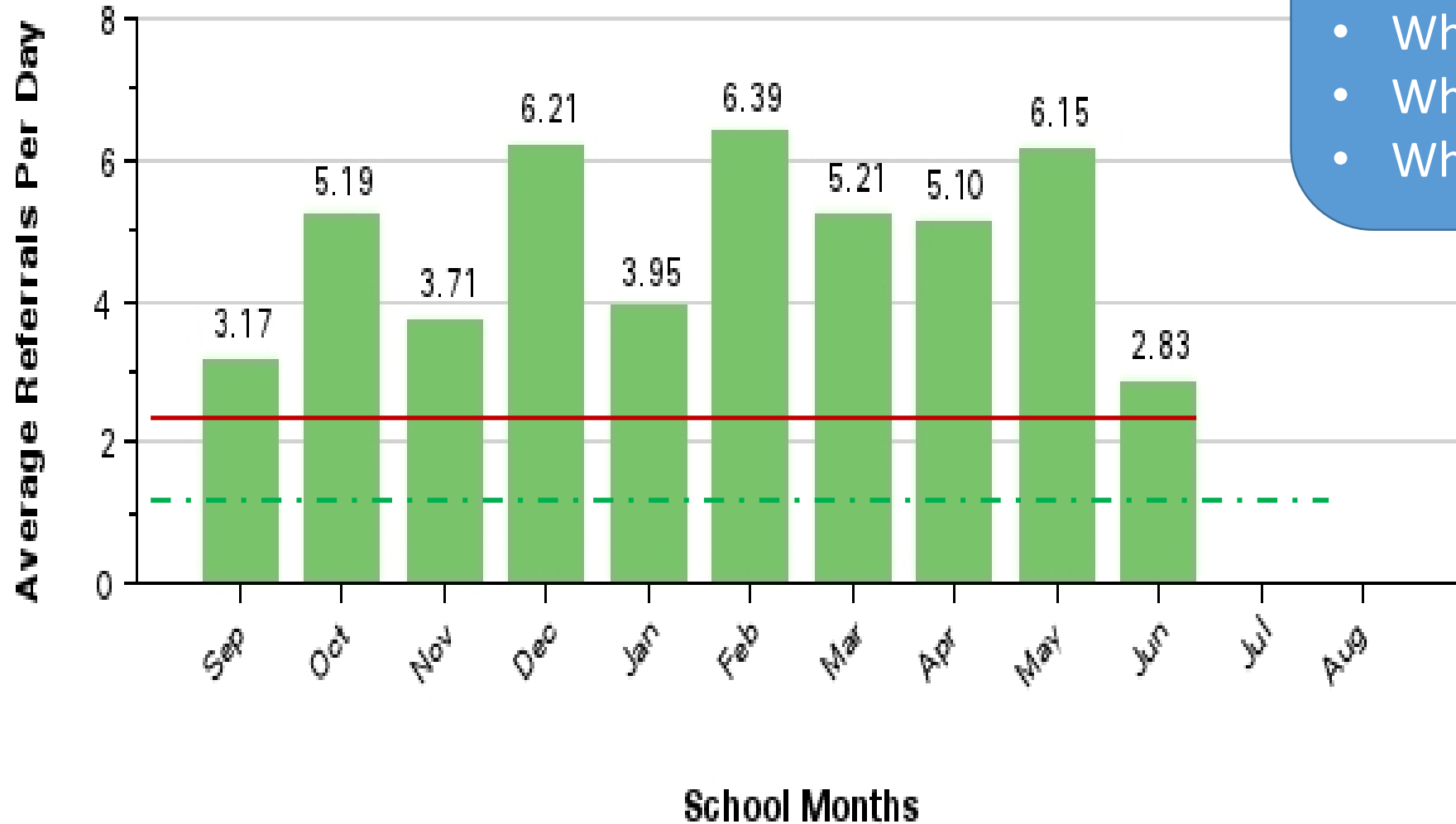
SWIS Summary 2016-17(Majors Only)  
5586 Schools, 2,500,992 Students

What is typical?

What is possible?

Grade Range	Number of Schools	Mean Enrollment per School	Mean ODRs per 100 Students/ School Day	Median ODRs per 100 per Students/ School Day	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile ODR/100 Students/ School Day	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile ODR/100 Students/ School Day
K-6	3580	468	.34 (.60)	.20	.09	.39
6-9	1023	643	.48 (.67)	.30	.15	.57
9-12	526	931	.48 (.71)	.28	.16	.53
PreK-8	365	427	.55 (1.04)	.27	.12	.51
PreK-12	92	308	.88 (.2.11)	.26	.15	.65

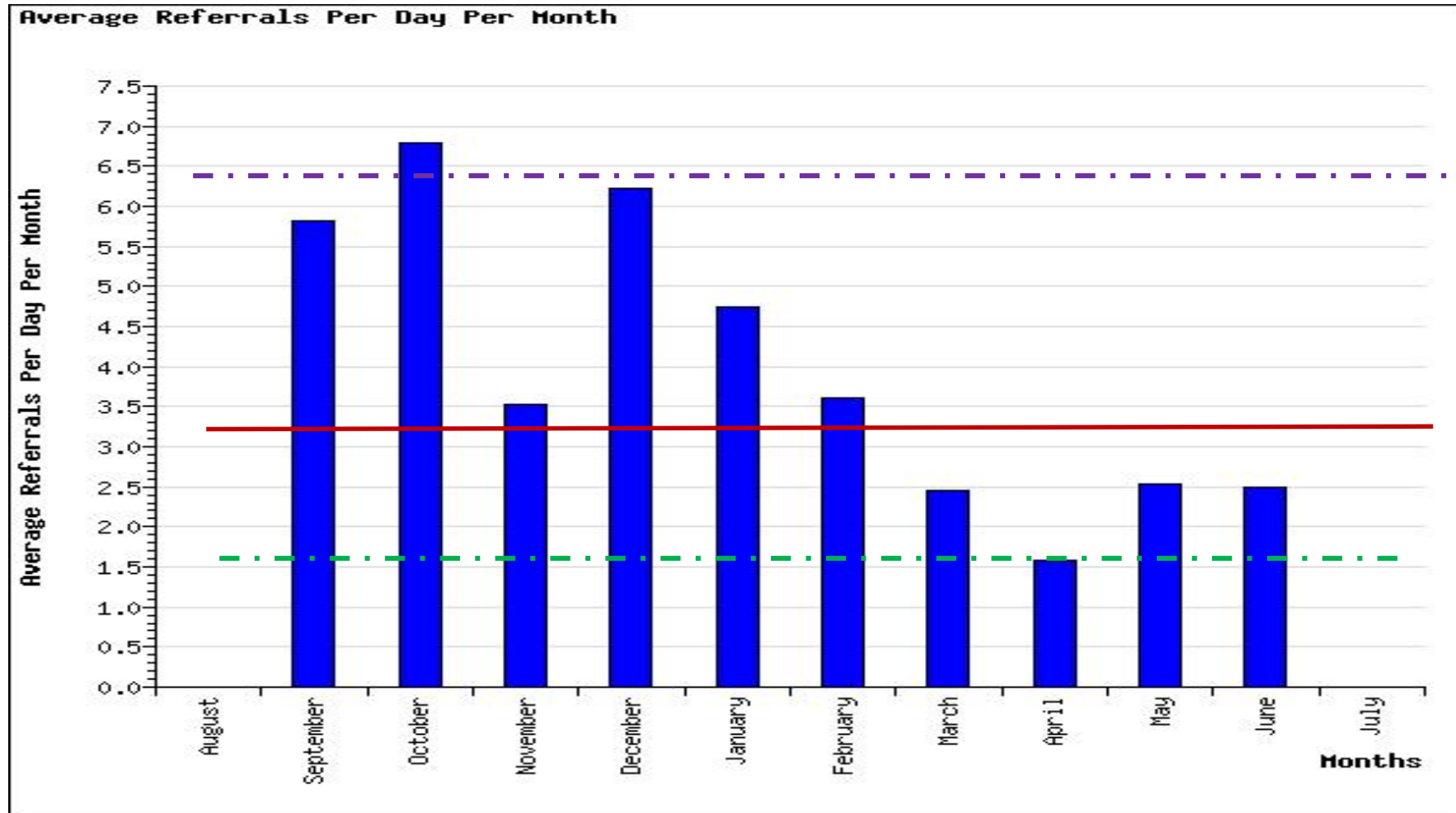
# Example



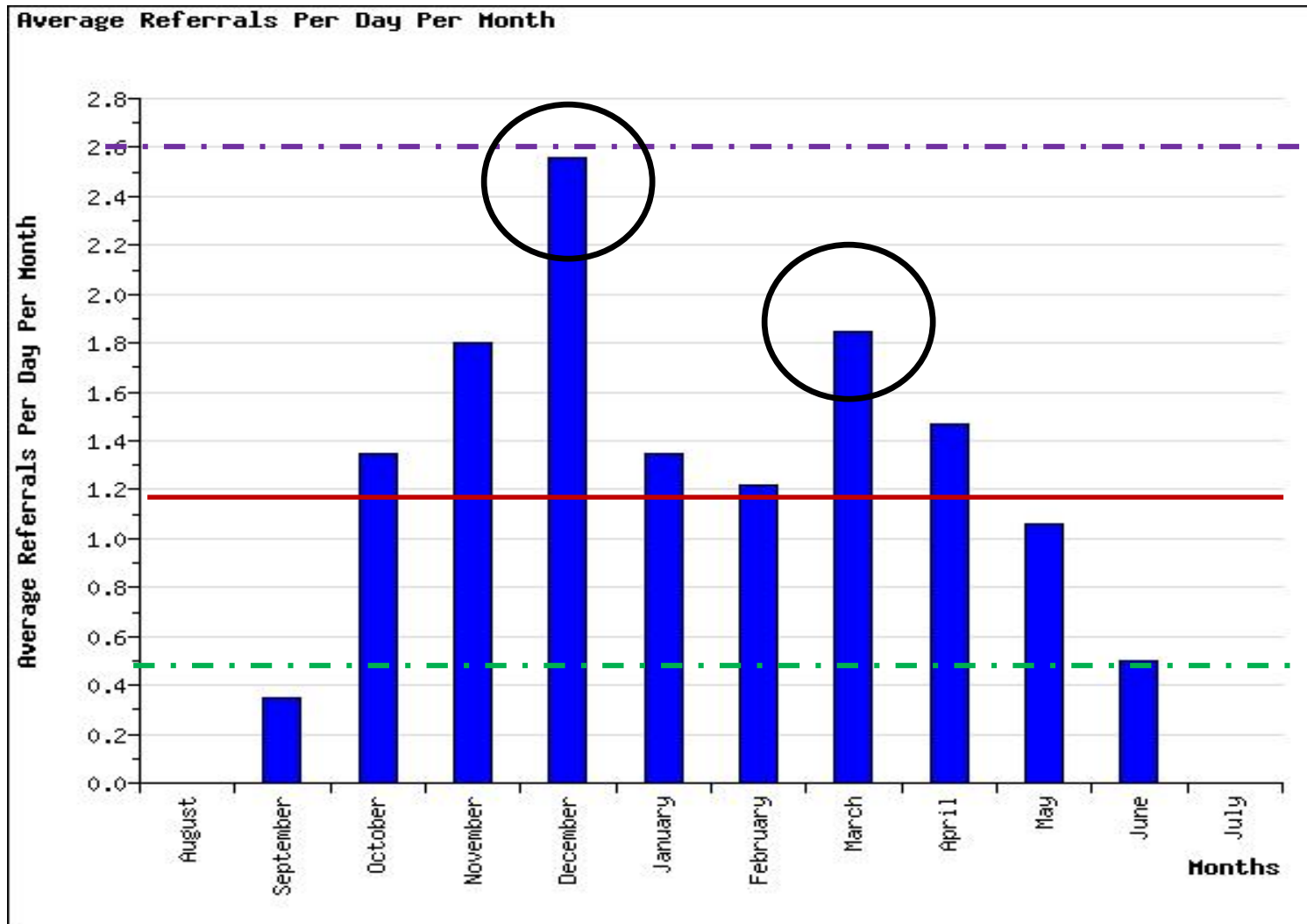
Do we have a problem?

- What is pattern
- What is typical
- What is possible
- What is needed

Elementary School 1500 Students ( $1500/100 = 105 \times .22 = 3.3$ )

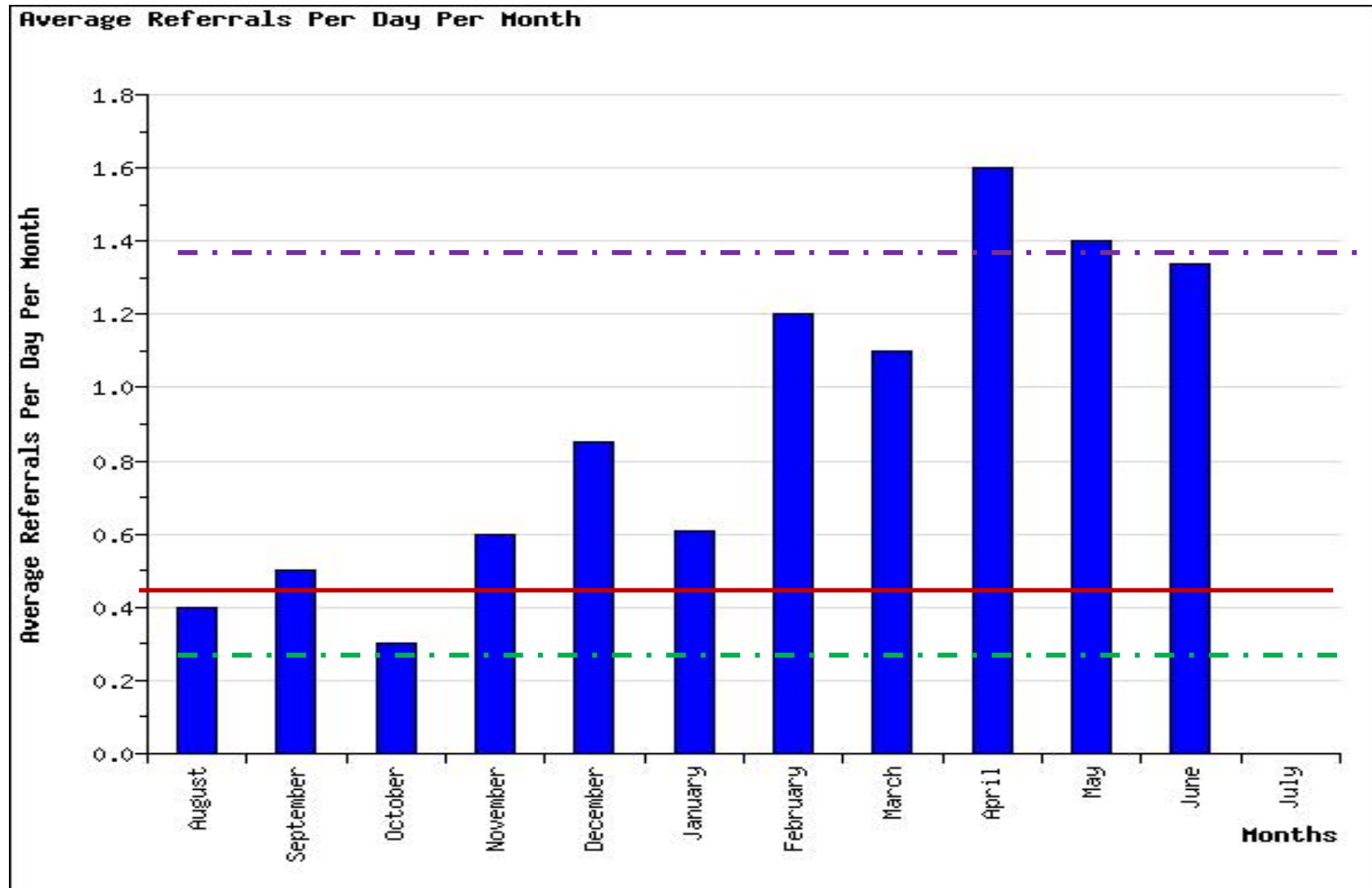


Describe the narrative for this school

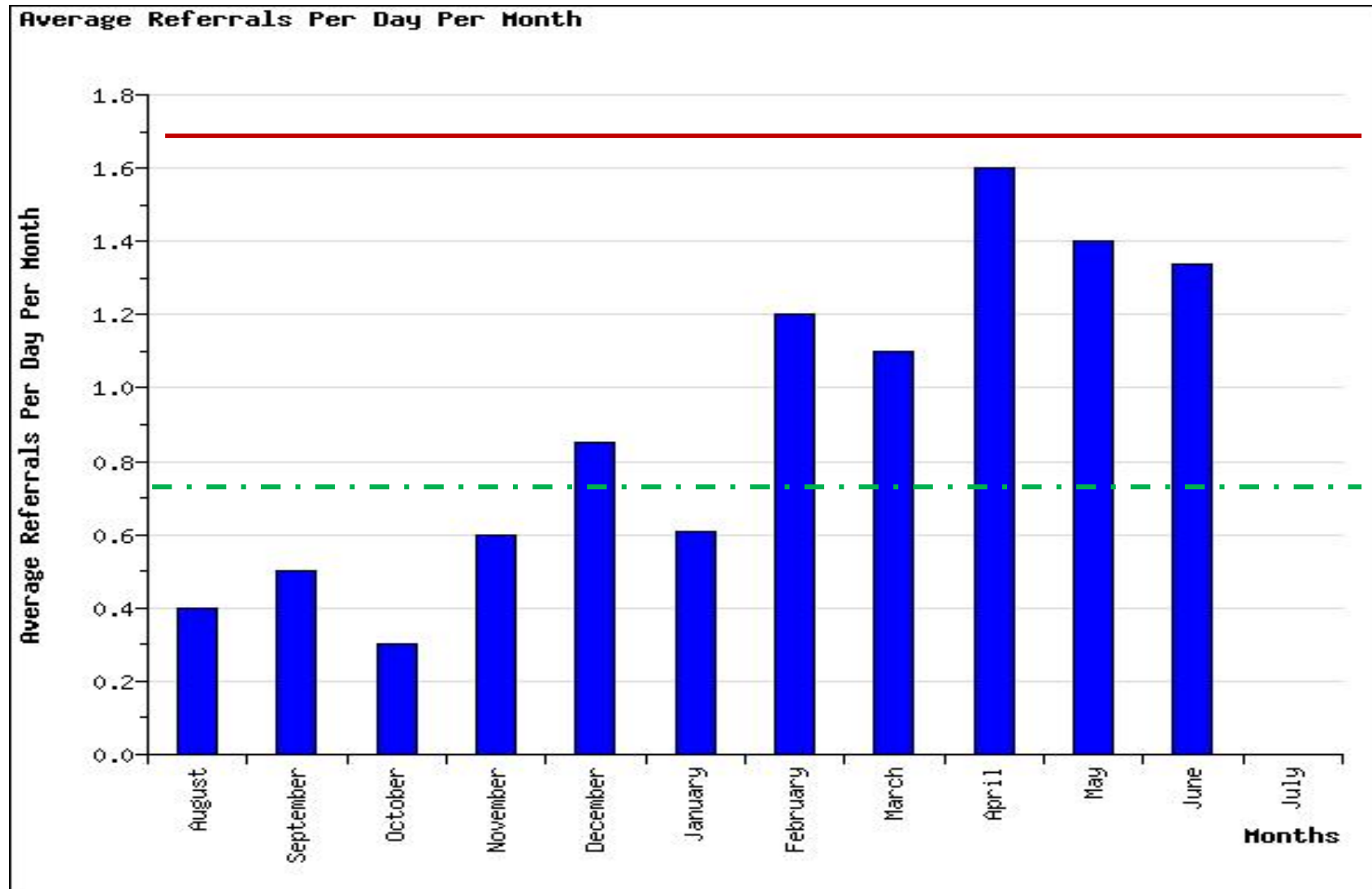




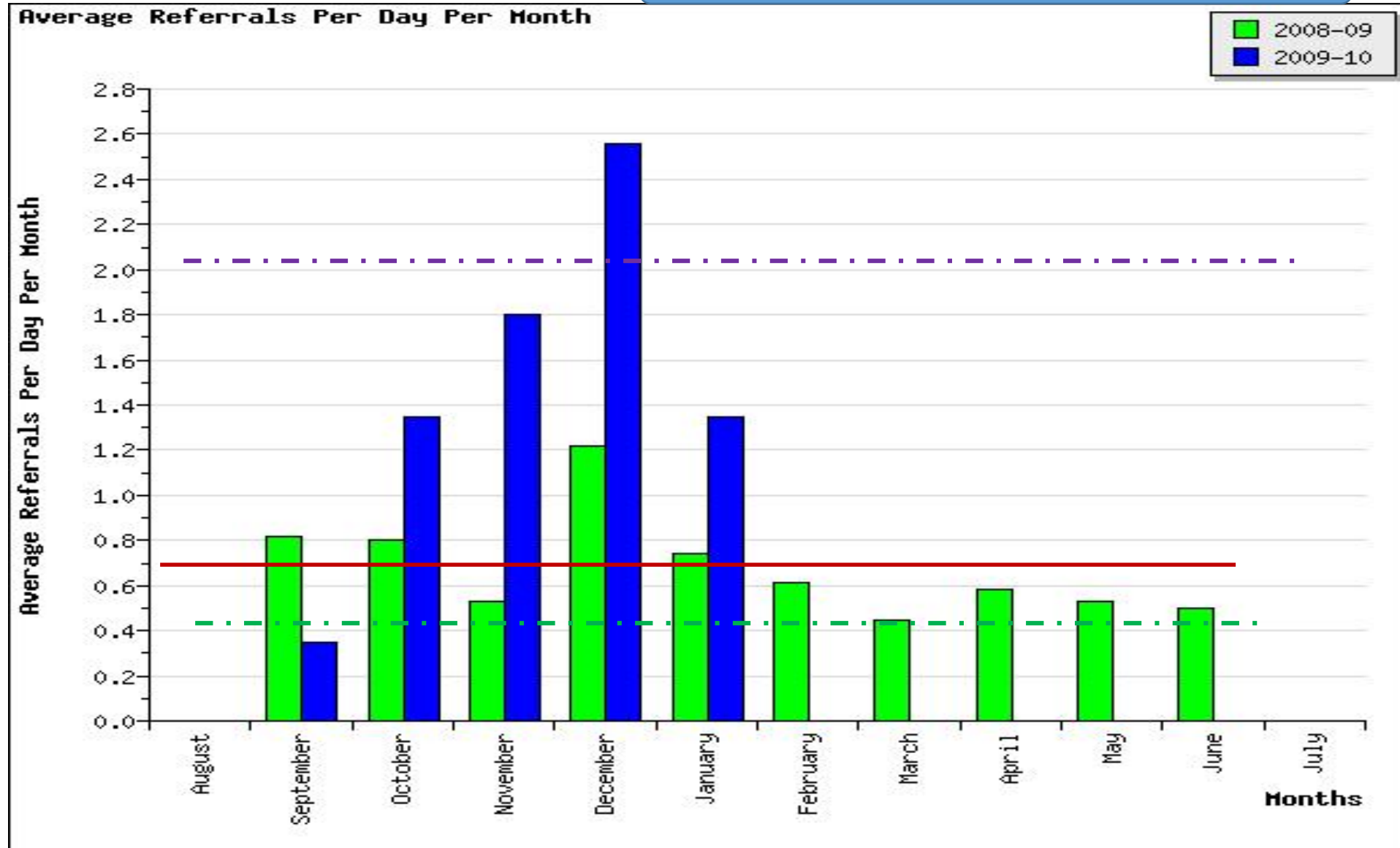
Describe the narrative for this school



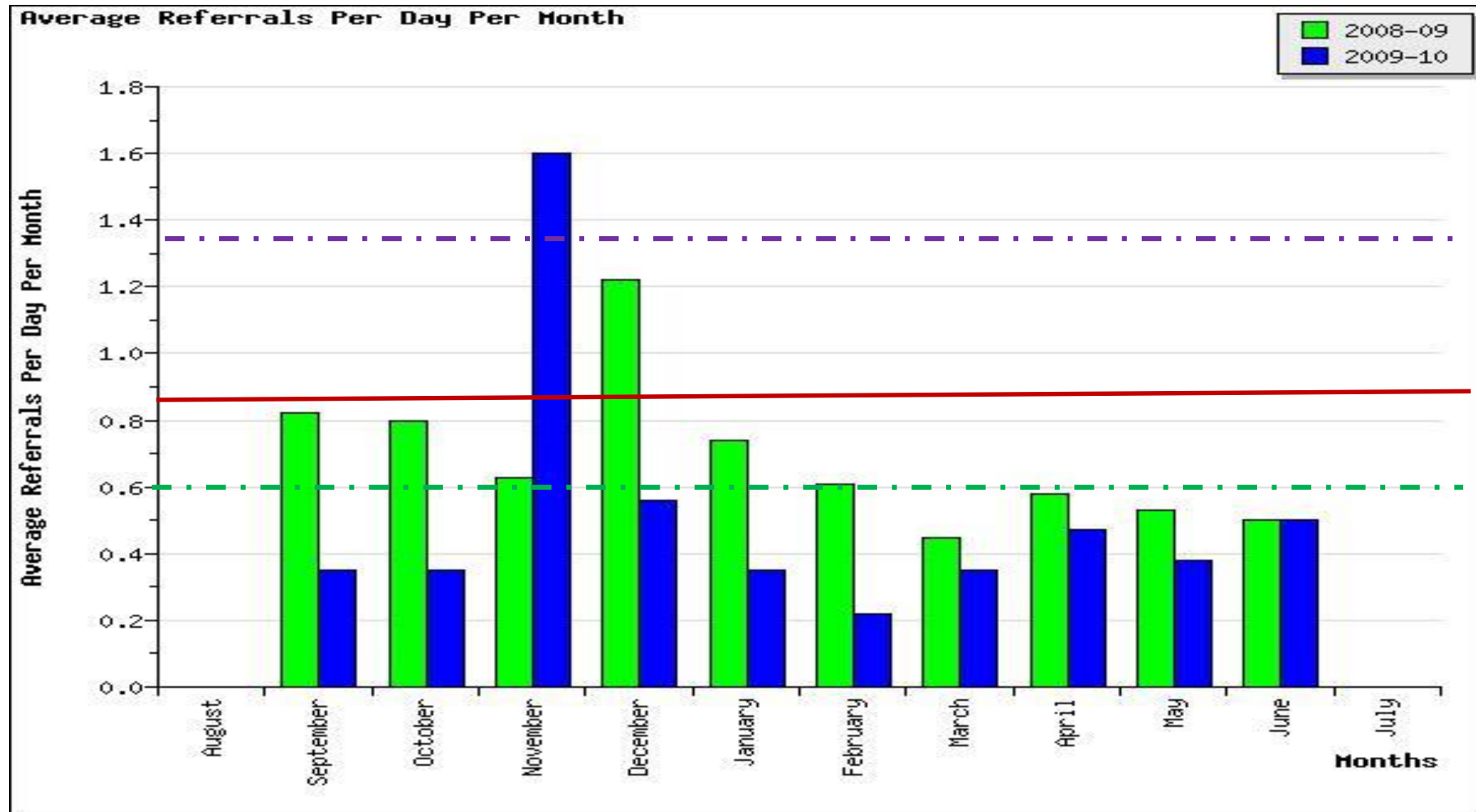
Describe the narrative for this school



Describe the narrative for this school



Describe the narrative for this school





# Problem Solving

## Effective Problem Solving

1. First identify if there is a problem

*Difference between observed and expected behavior.*

2. Define the problem with precision

*Who, What, Where, When, Why & (How often)*

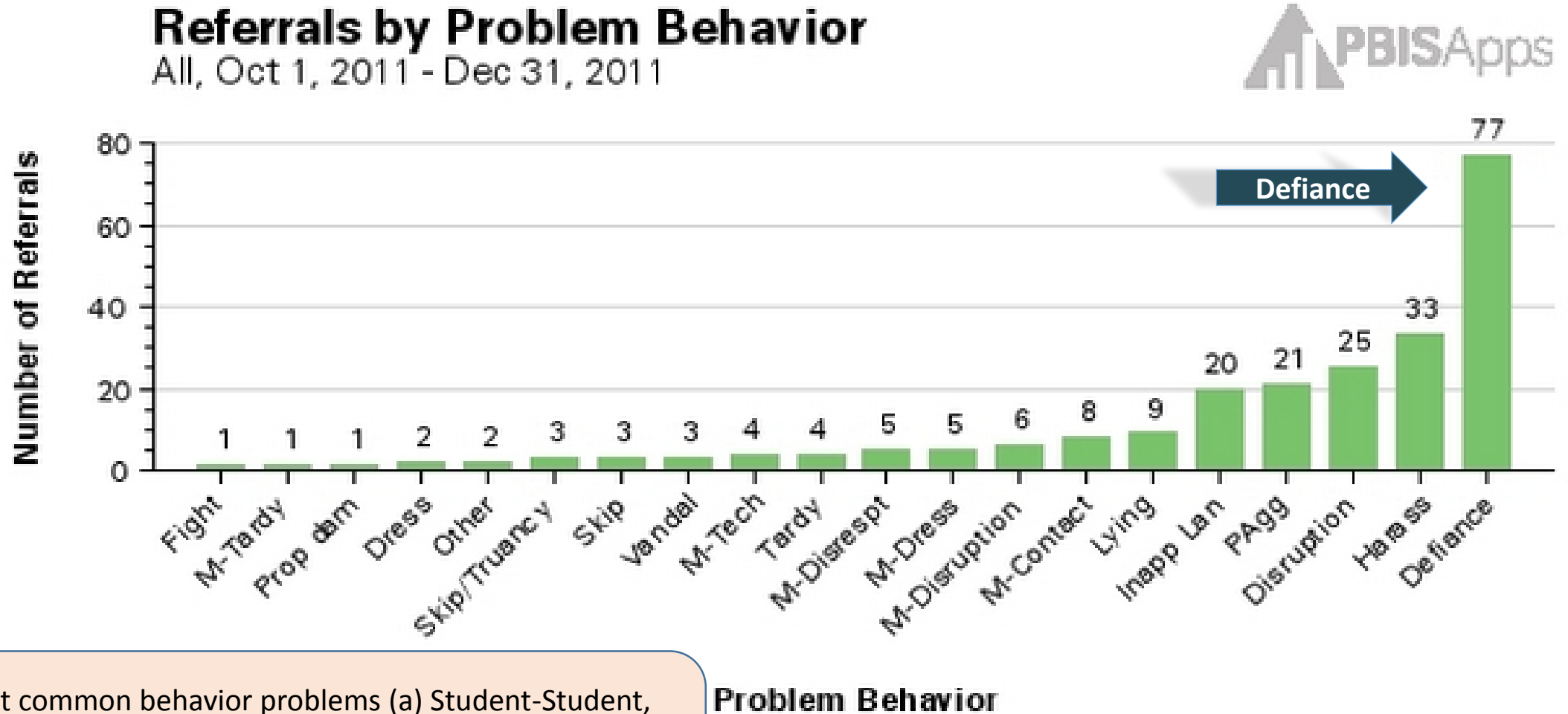
3. Build solution that is practical, instructional and functional.

*Based on behavioral function, and fits with the values, skills, resources and administrative support.*



# What Behavior(s)

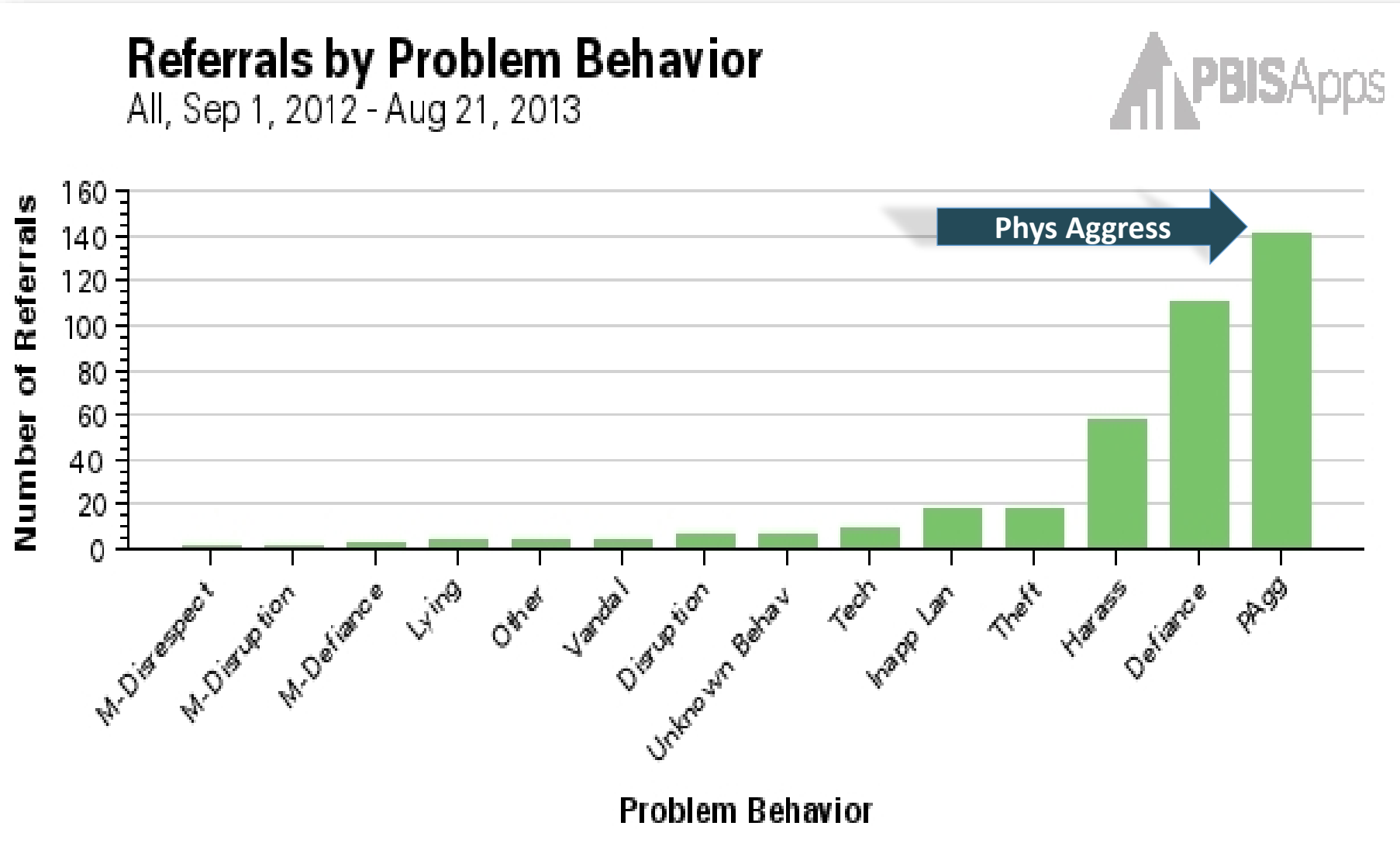
Graph



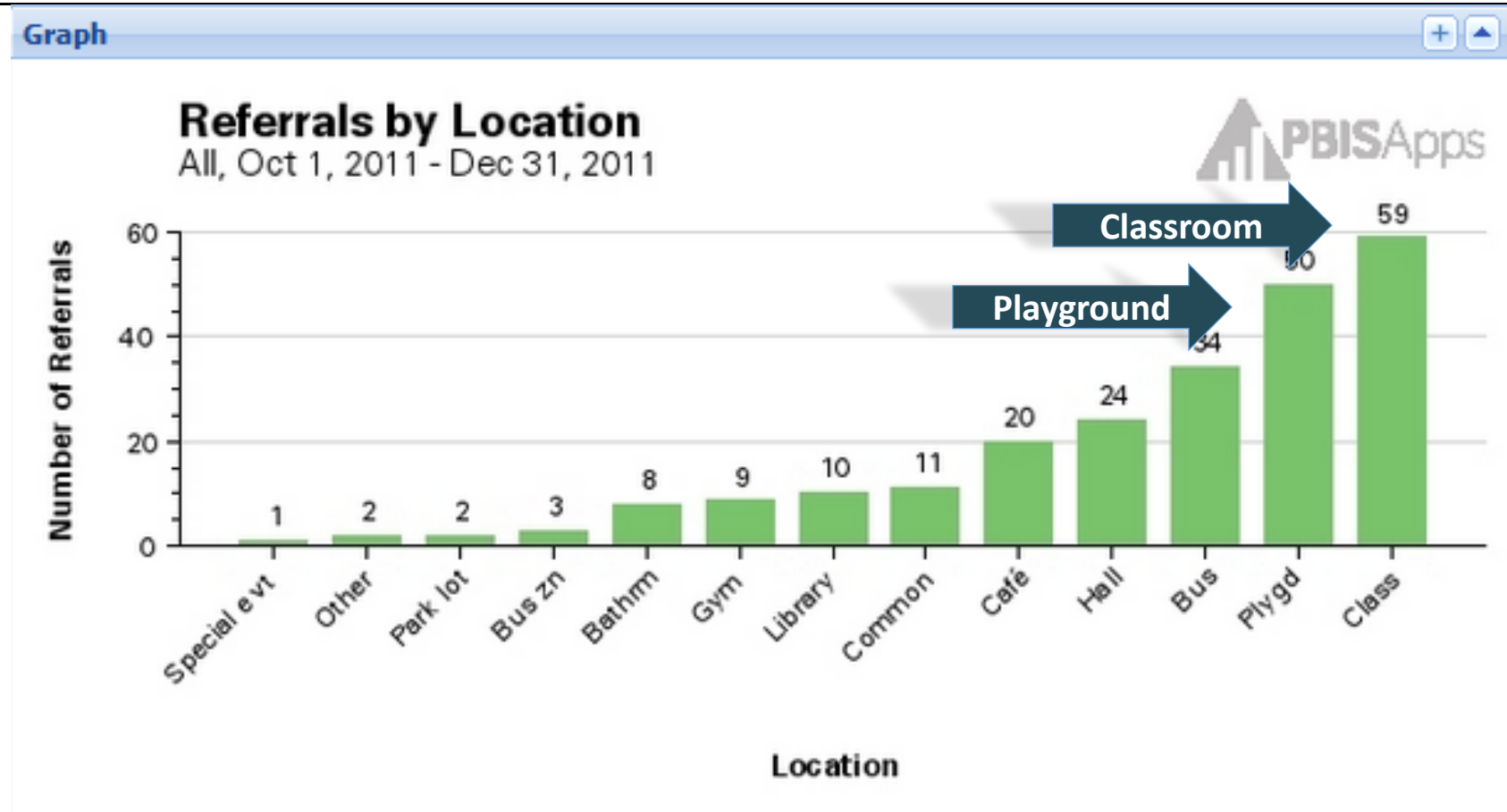
1. Are most common behavior problems (a) Student-Student, or (b) Adult-Student related?

2. Are problem behaviors MAJOR or MINOR or BOTH?

# What Behavior(s)



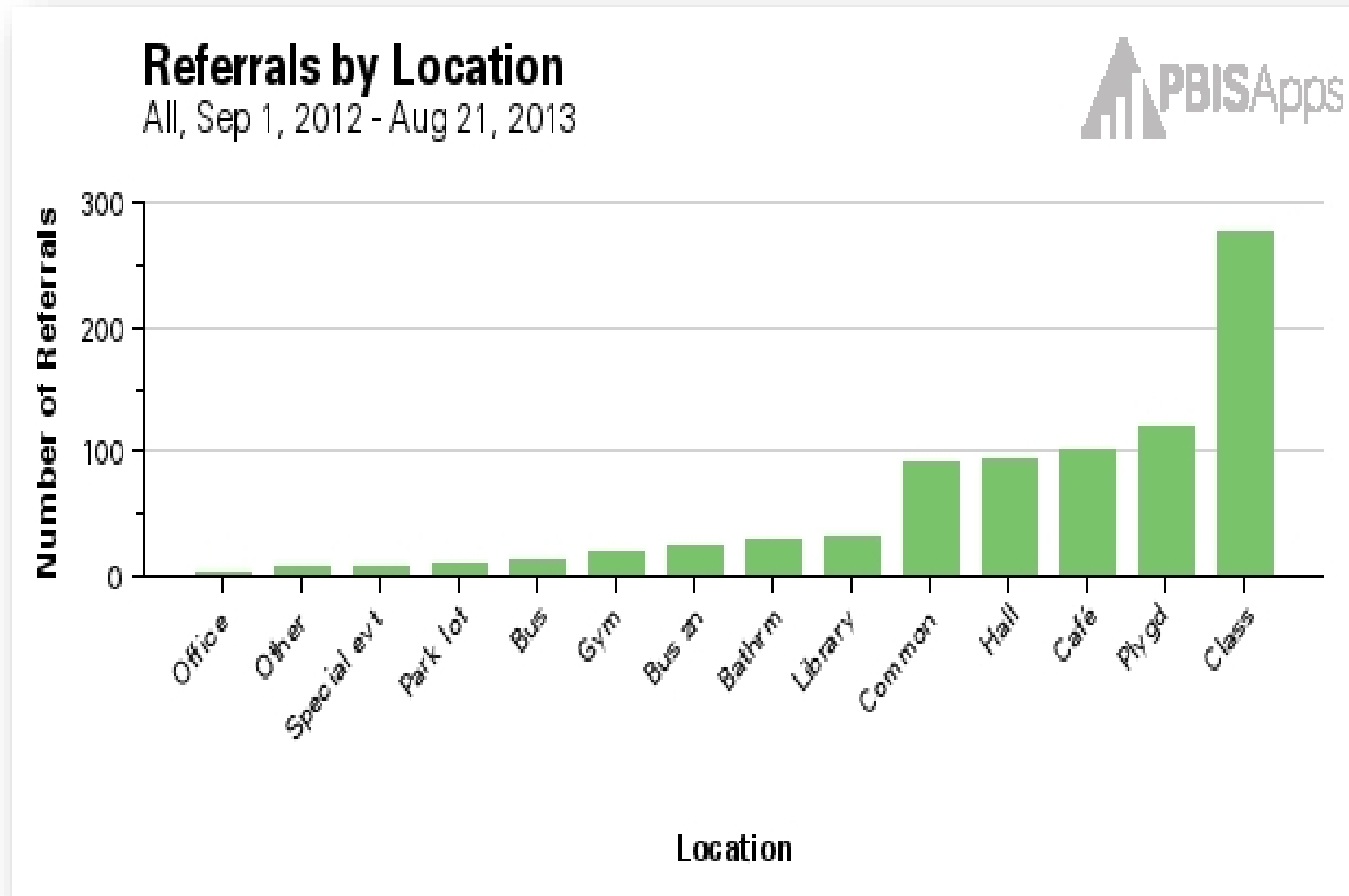
# Where?



Questions:

1. What location(s) are associated with the most ODRs?
2. Sort by “structured” settings and “non-structured” settings  
(Classroom & Gym vs. Commons, Cafeteria, Hall, Playground)

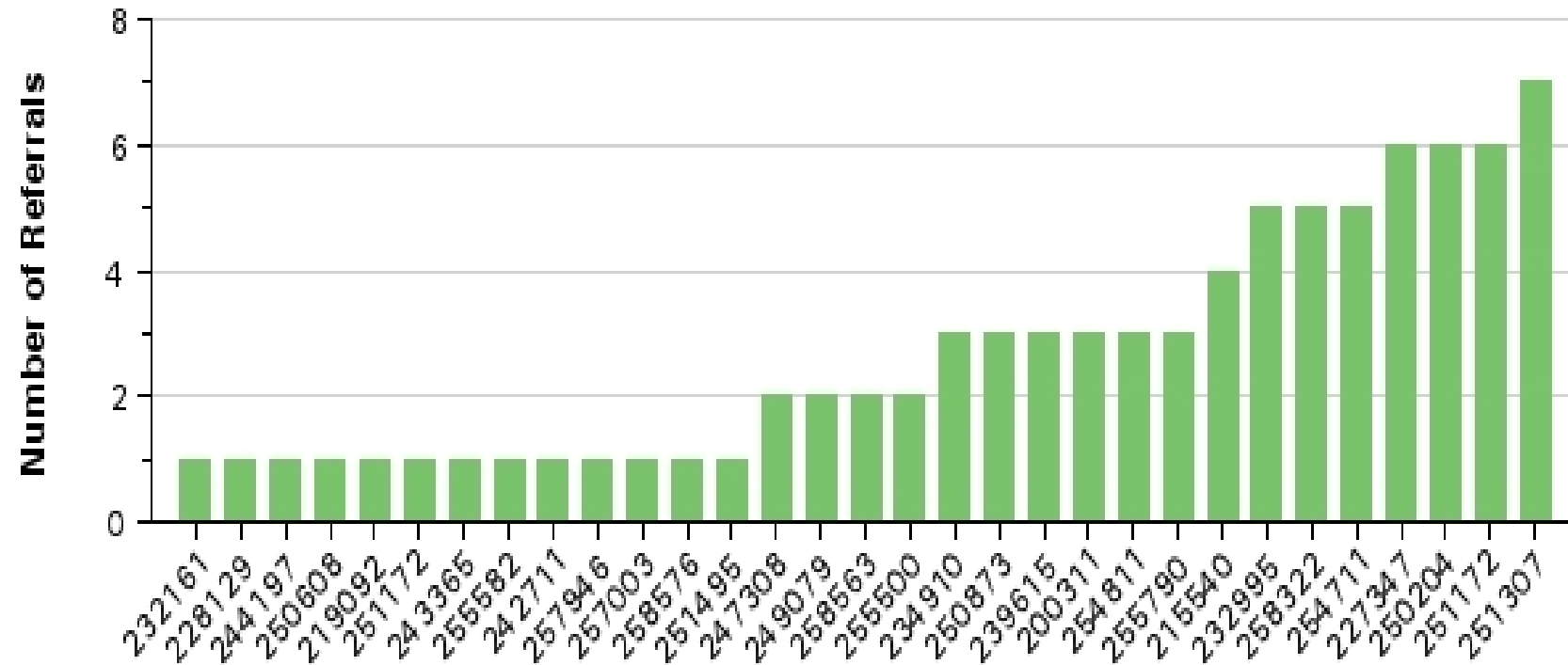
# Where



# Who

## Referrals by Student

All, Sep 1, 2012 - Oct 31, 2012, At Least 1 Referrals



Question:

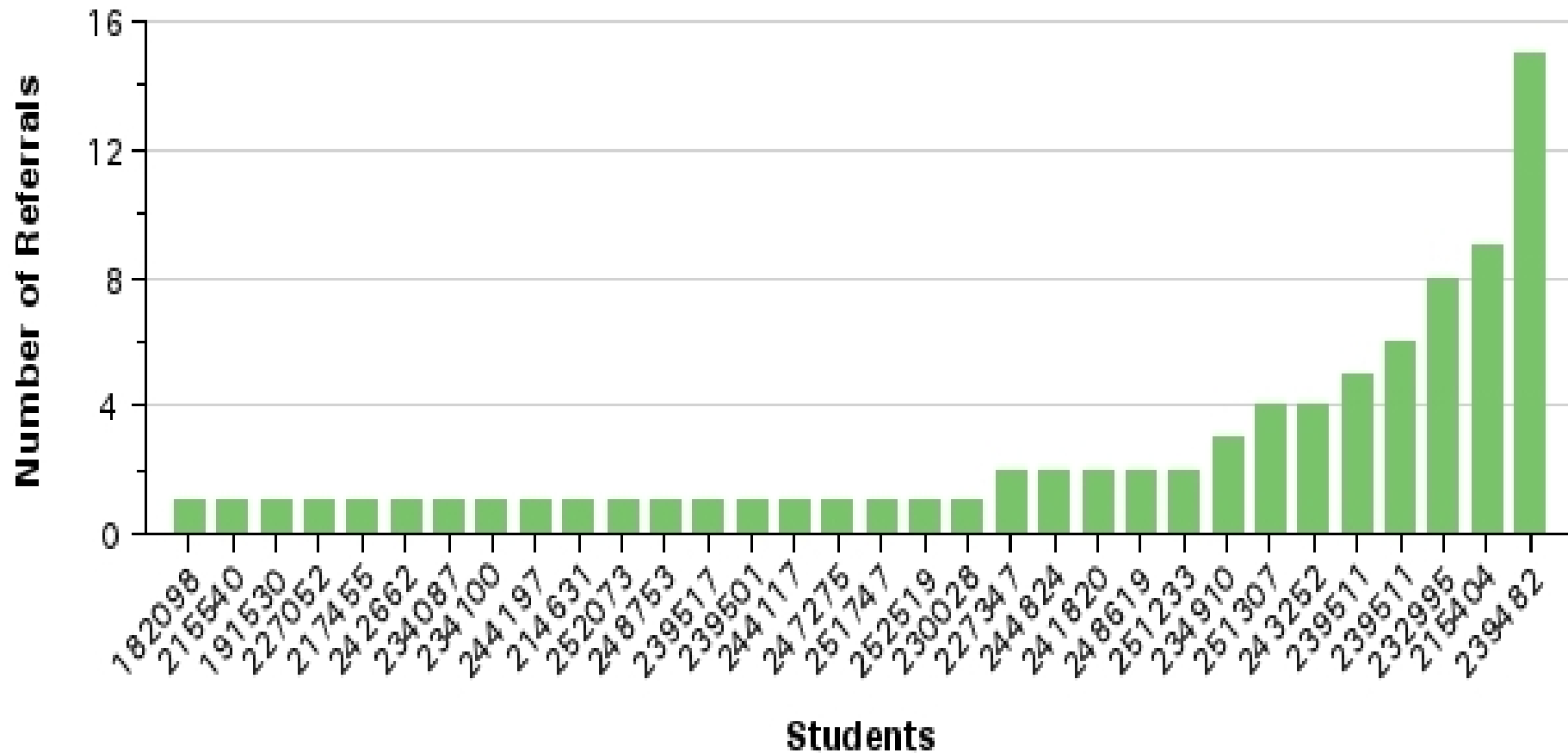
1. Are there many, a few, or one student associated with the problem?



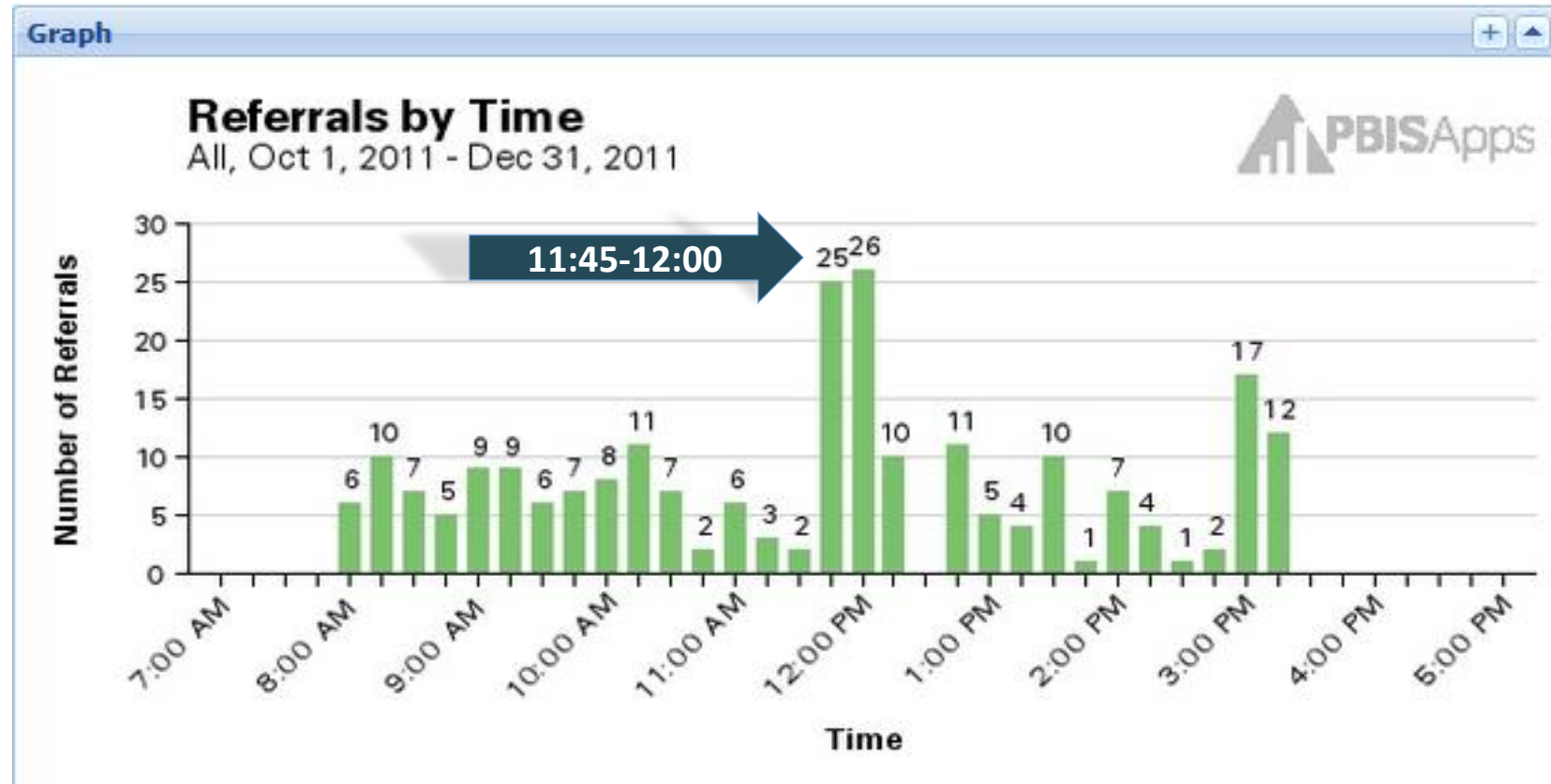
# Who

## Referrals by Student

All, Sep 1, 2011 - Oct 31, 2011, At Least 1 Referrals



# When?



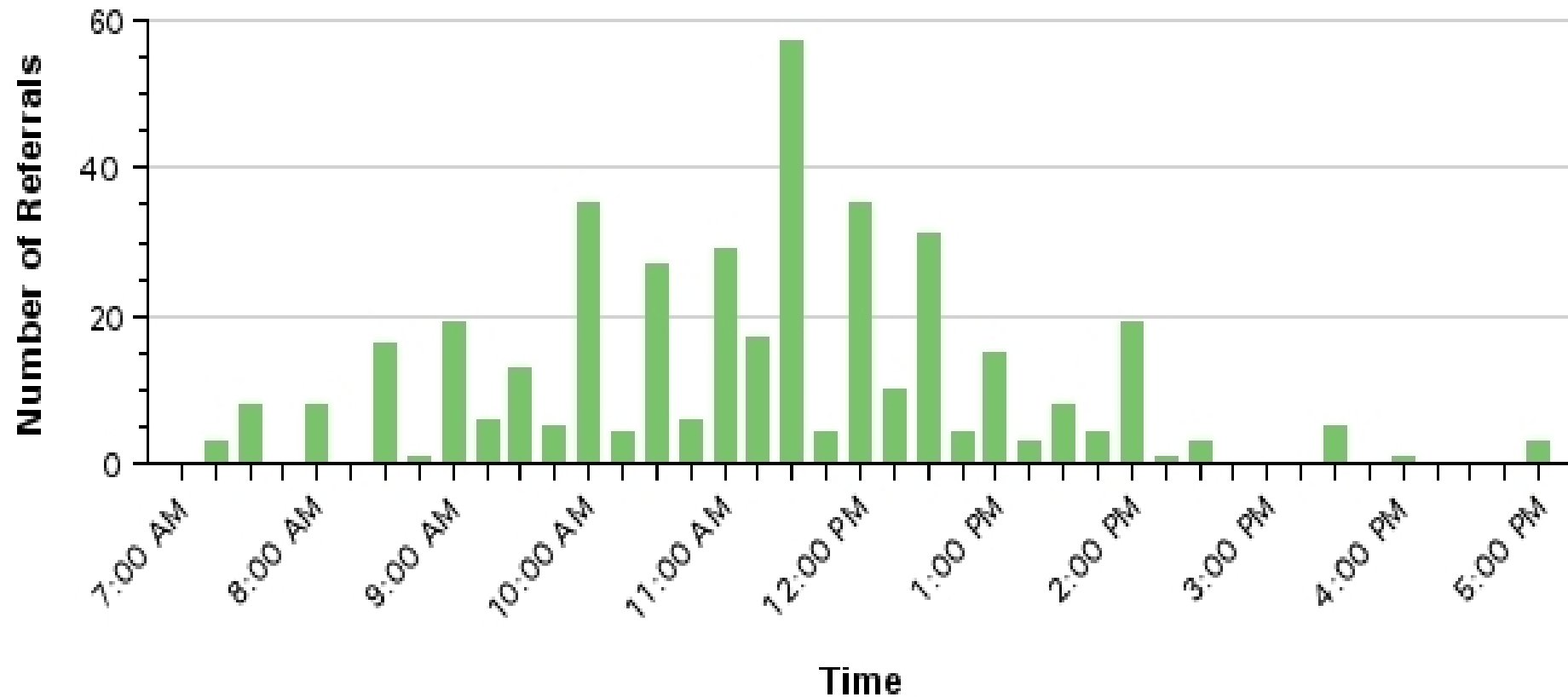
### Questions:

1. Are problem behaviors more likely at some times of the day?
2. What is happening during periods when problems are most likely?

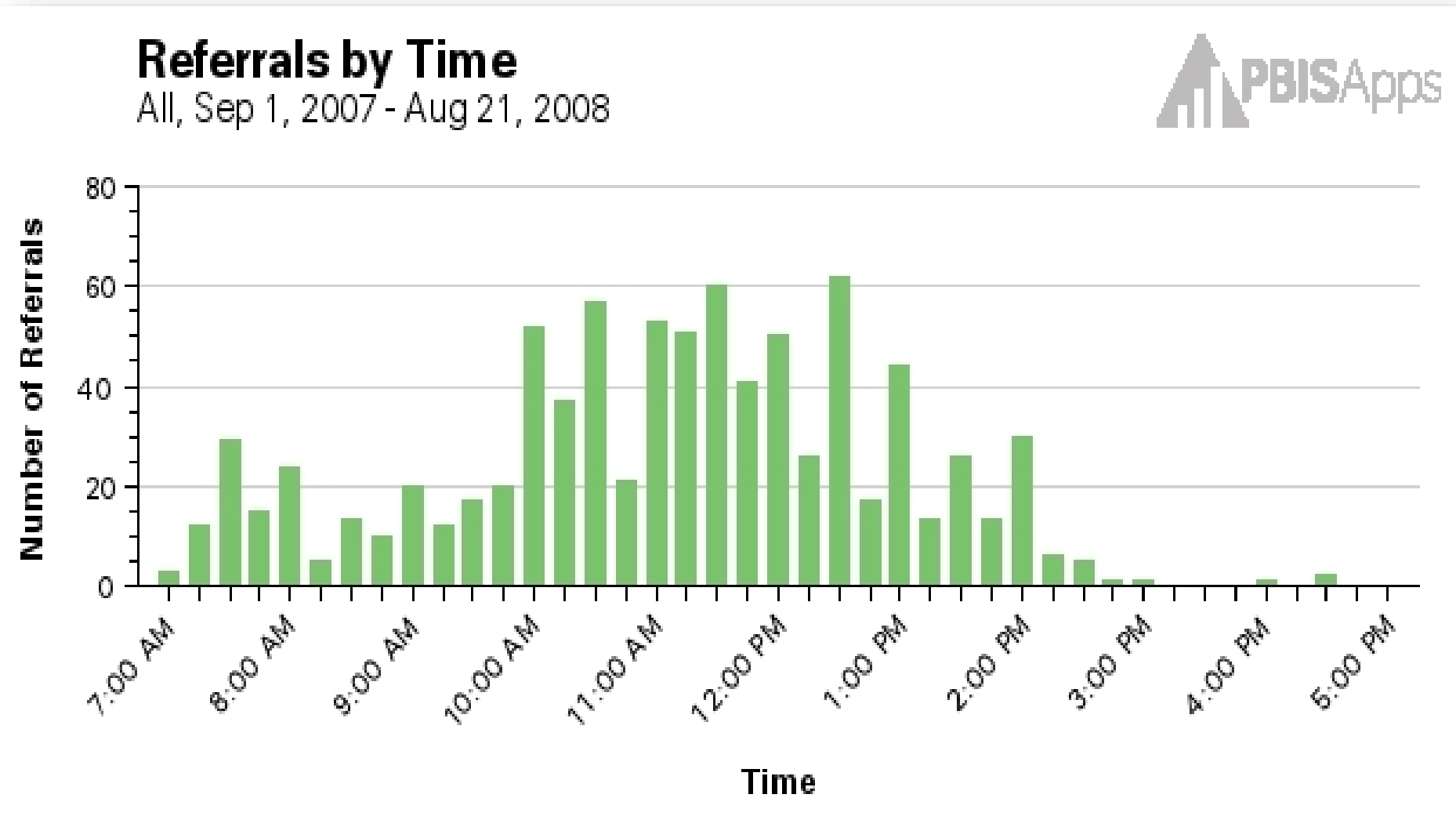
# When

## Referrals by Time

All, Sep 1, 2008 - Aug 21, 2009



# When

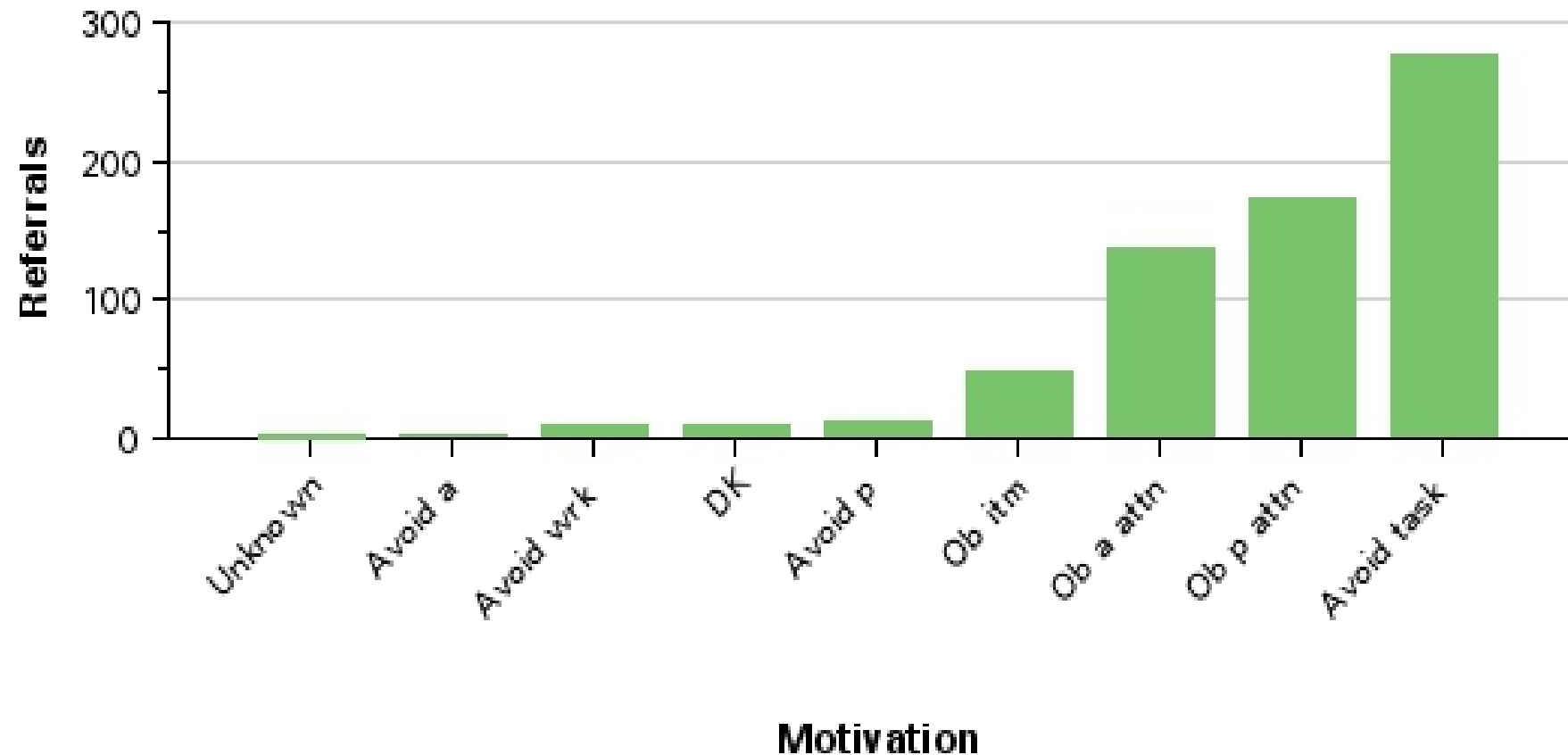


# Why?

ODR from Classroom ONLY

## Referrals by Perceived Motivation

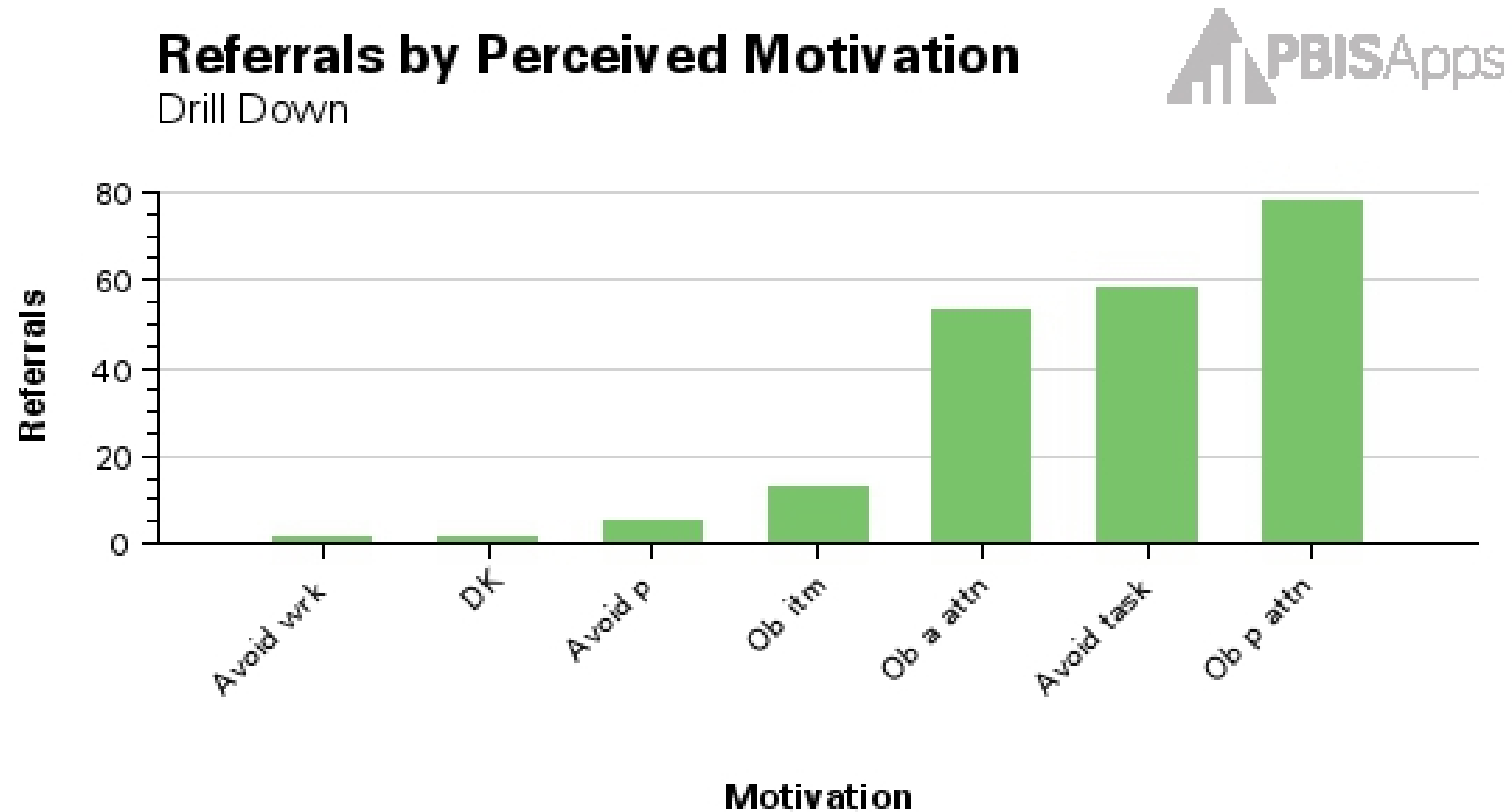
Drill Down





# Why ?

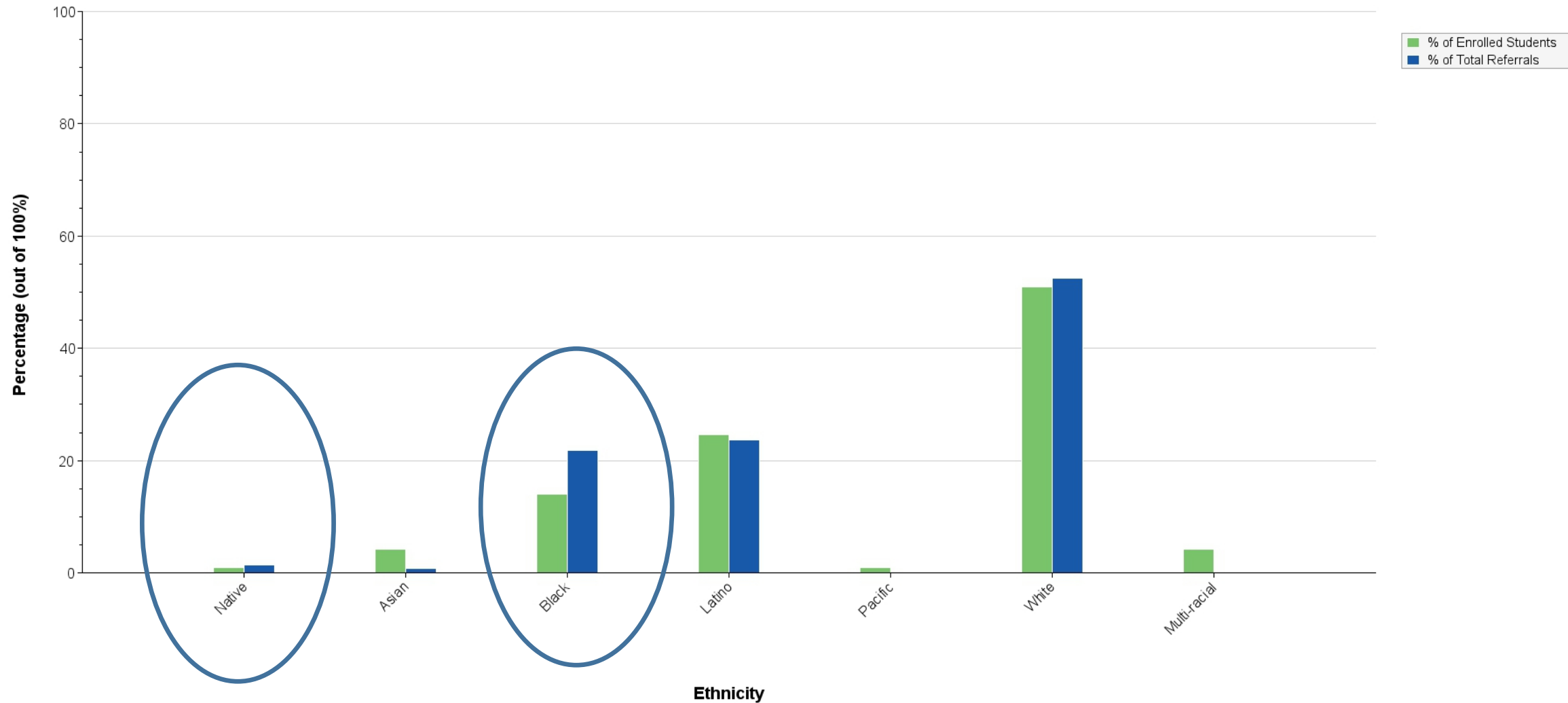
ODR from Playground ONLY



# Ethnicity

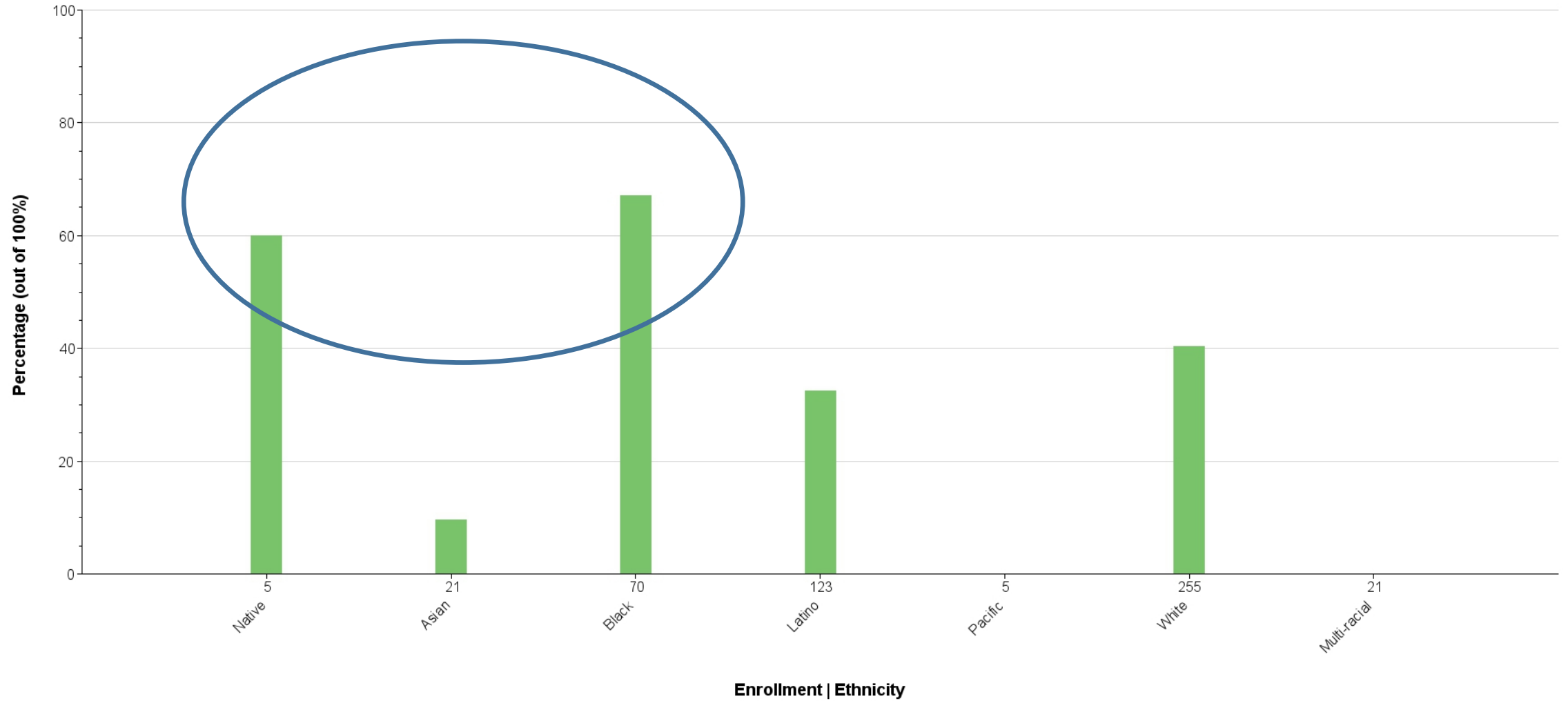
## Referrals By Ethnicity

All, 2016-17



## Referral Risk Index

All, 2016-17



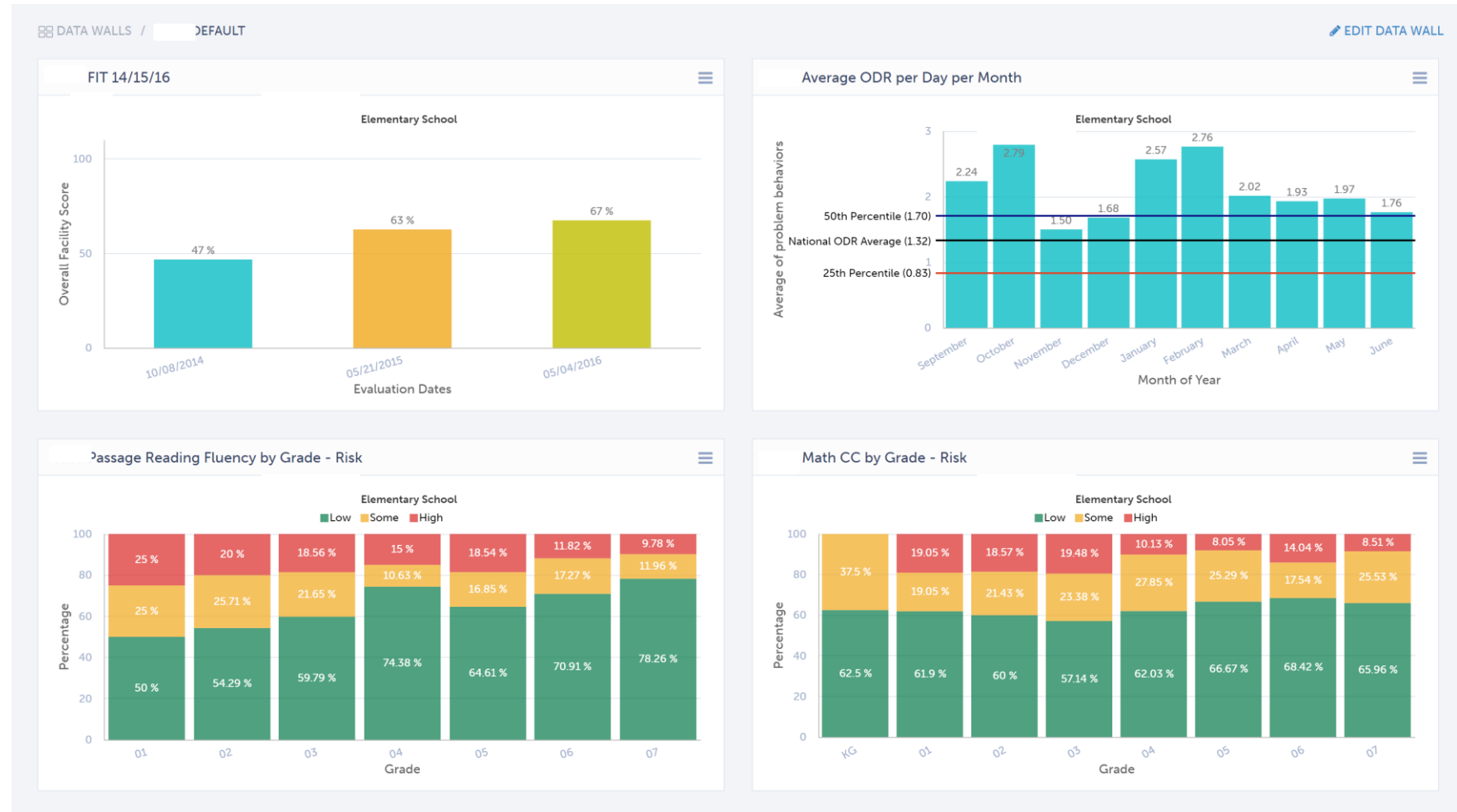
# SWIFT DataWall



Are we Implementing with Fidelity?

Are Students Engaging in Problem Behavior?

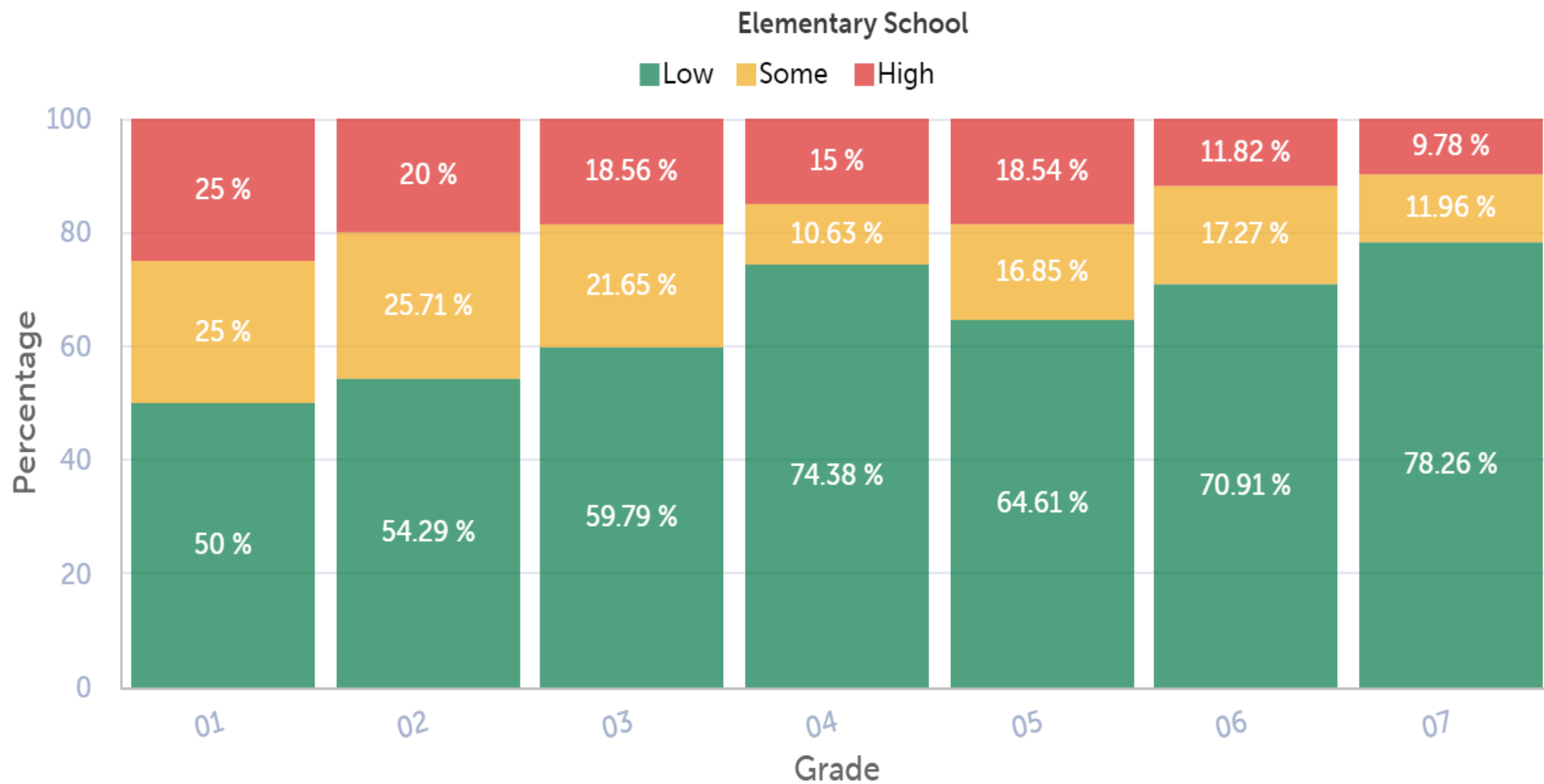
- Decision Making



Are Students Meeting Reading Expectations

Are Students Meeting Math Expectations?

# Passage Reading Fluency by Grade - Risk



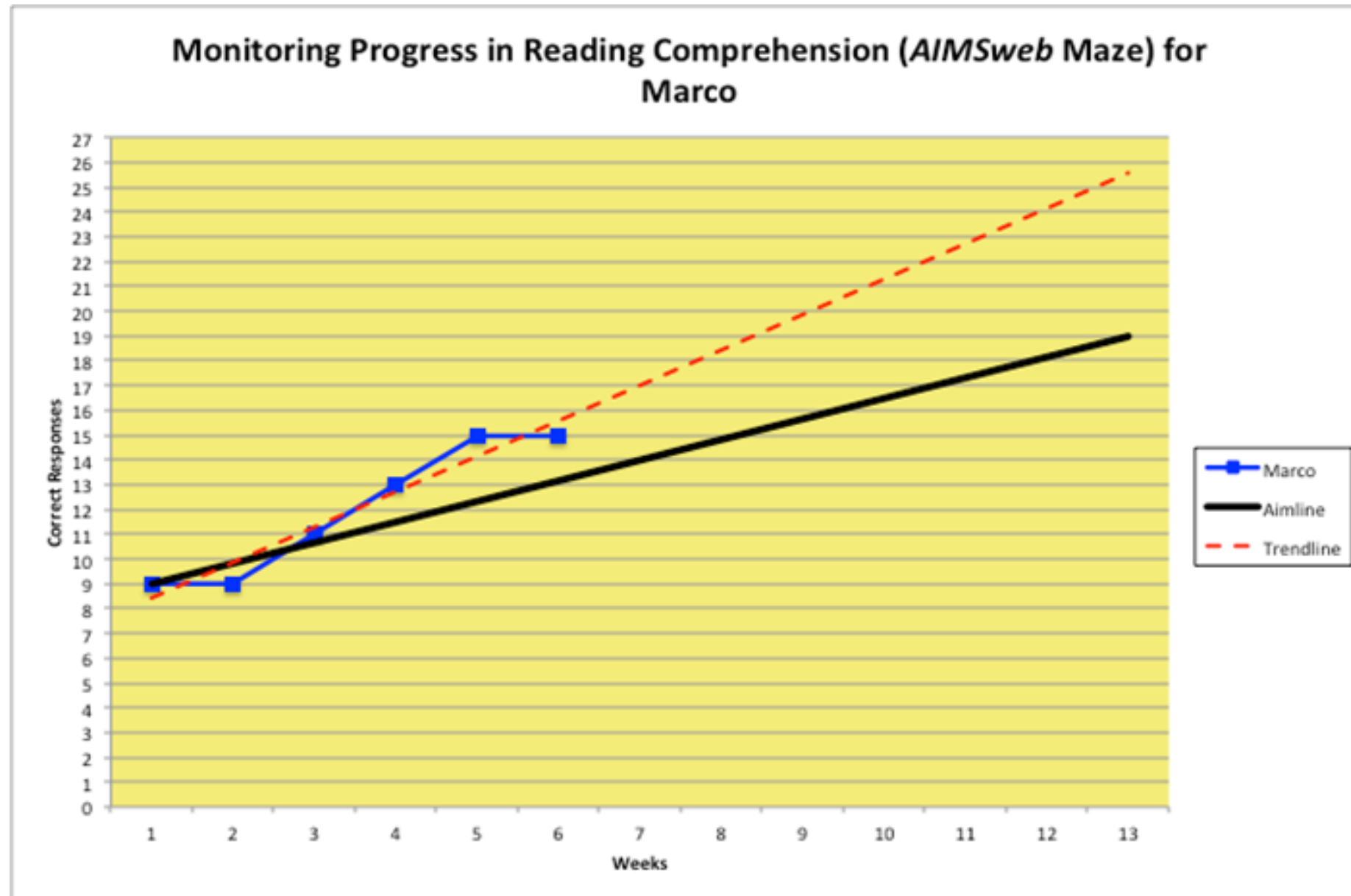
# Academics



- Decision Making

Use the same decision-making logic for academics

*Define the problem with precision before making a decision*

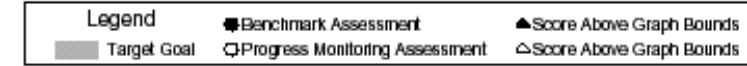




Name: Johnson Nora  
ID:  
Class: Garcia  
Grade: Third  
Year: 2003-2004  
School: Thompson Elementary  
District: Greenlee Public Schools

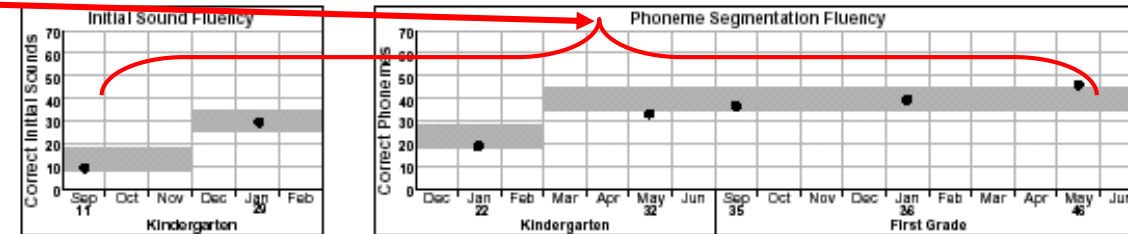
# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

## Student Report



At or Above Goal

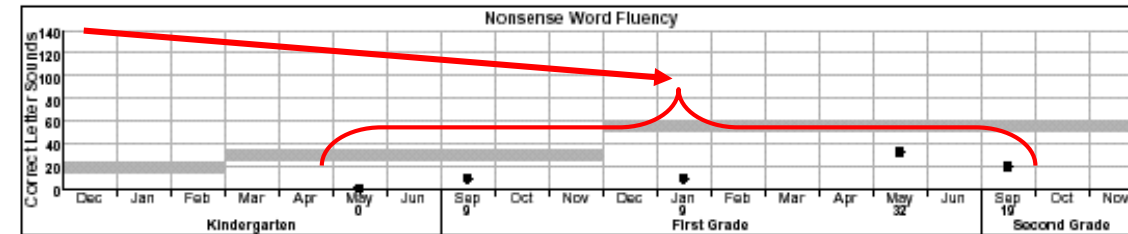
### PHONEMIC AWARENESS



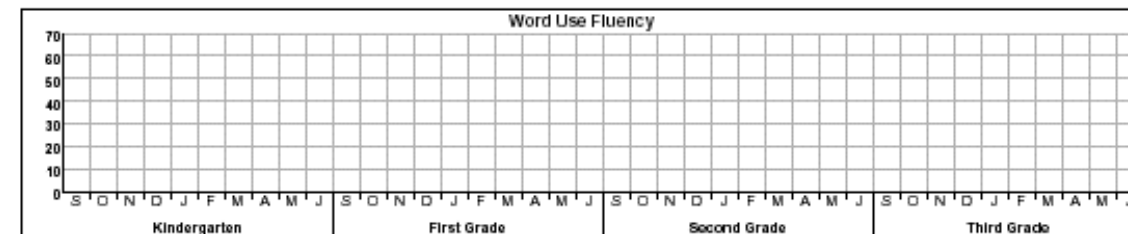
Below Goal

Suggestion:  
Provide supplemental alphabetic instruction

### ALPHABETIC PRINCIPLE

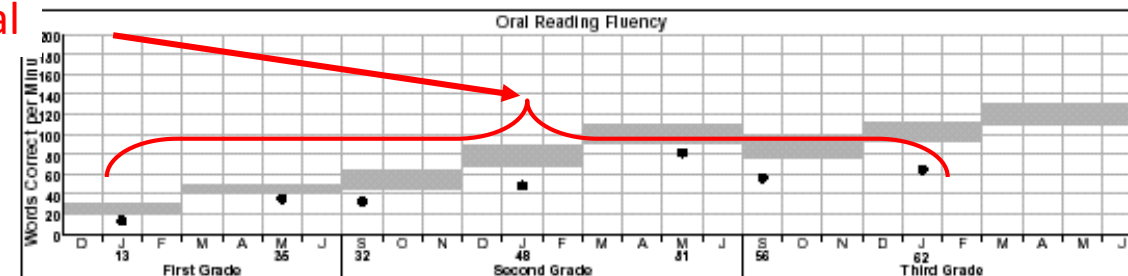


### VOCABULARY



Below Goal

### FLUENCY AND COMPREHENSION



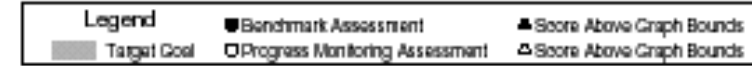
Individual Student Report

Steve Goodman

Name: Wilson, Jamenson  
ID:  
Class: Garcia  
Grade: Third  
Year: 2003-2004  
School: Thompson Elementary  
District: Geenlee Public Schools

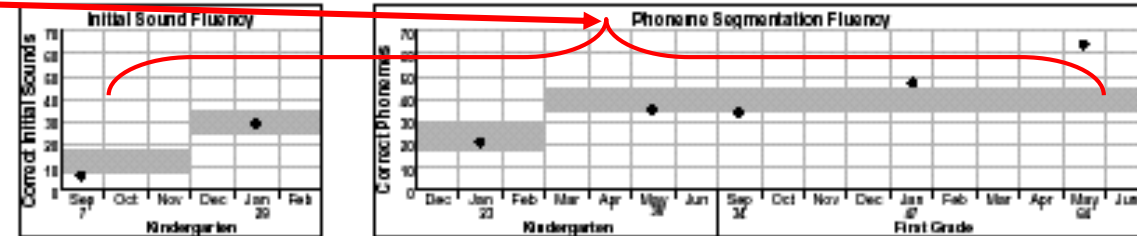
# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

## Student Report



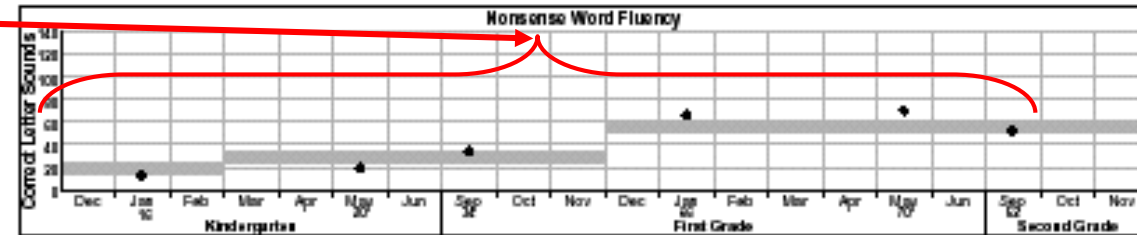
At or Above Goal

### PHONEMIC AWARENESS



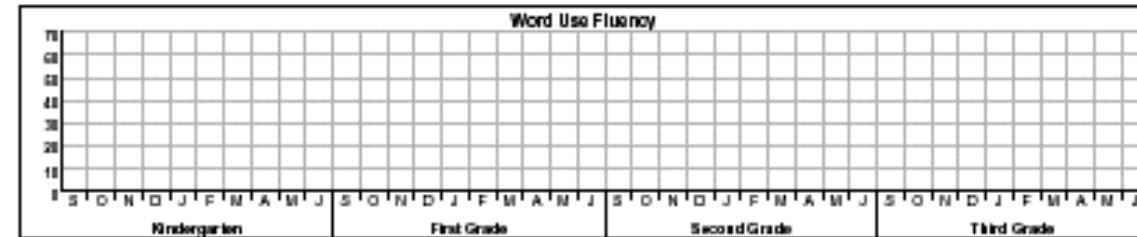
At or Above Goal

### ALPHABETIC PRINCIPLE



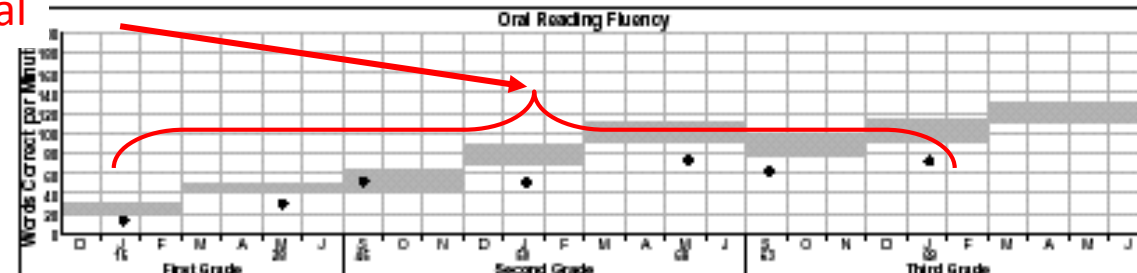
Suggestion:  
Provide supplemental fluency instruction

### VOCABULARY



Below Goal

### FLUENCY AND COMPREHENSION



Individual Student Report

Steve Goodman

# Building Solutions

Go to 73

# Solutions

- Key Features

- *Technically Sound*

- Solution is based on “precise” problem statement
    - Solution involves building competence, not just removing problem
    - Solution is logically associated with **removing** rewards for problem
    - Uses “evidence-based” practices

- *Contextual Fit*

- Practical, doable, efficient
    - Consistent with values of those who must perform the solution
    - Administrative support

# Solution Development



## Elements of an Effective Solution

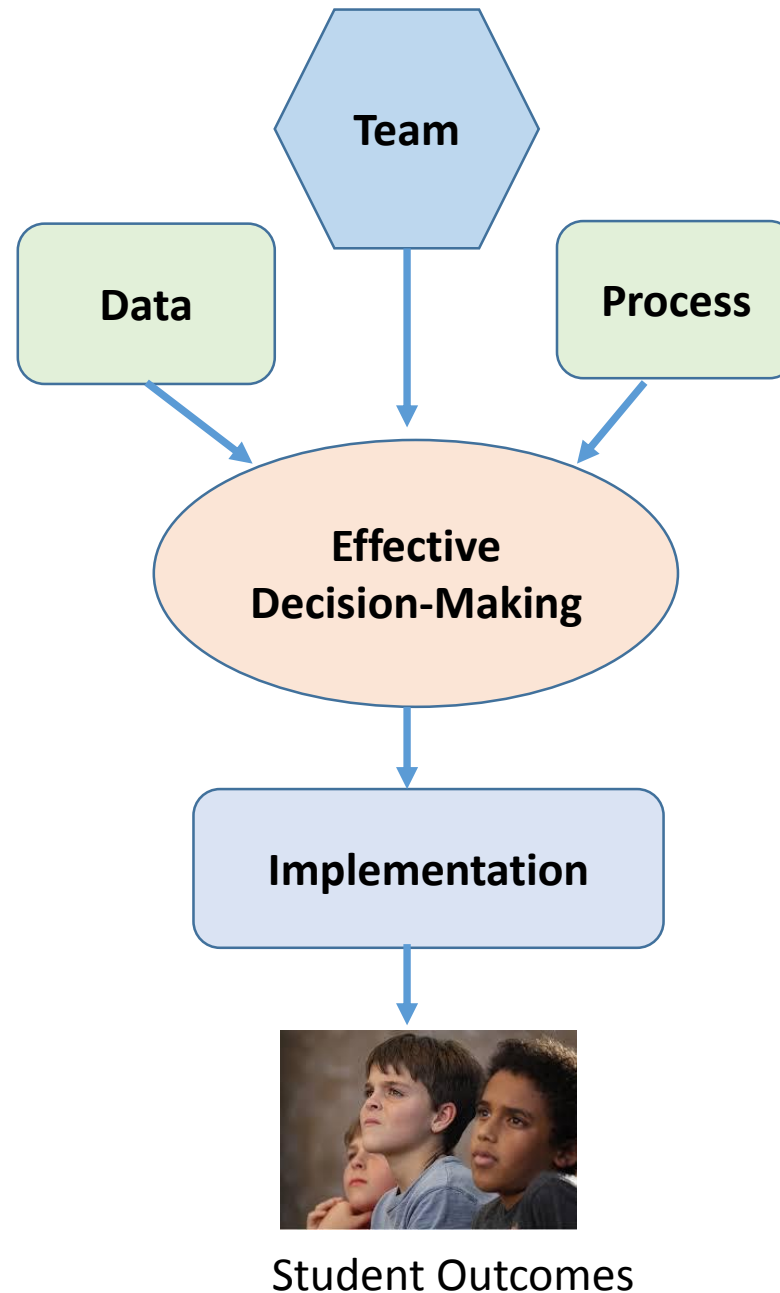
### Safety

Solution Component	Action Step(s)
Prevention	
Teaching	
Recognition	
Extinction	
Corrective Consequence (only if needed)	
Data collection	

# Self Assess



- Effective Decision-making



1. Do we have **teams** with:
  - The right people, clear responsibility, adequate authority, regular meeting schedule and time to perform?
2. Do we have the **data** we need to make effective decisions?
3. Do we have a clear **process** for defining problems, building solutions, and building action plans
4. Do we actually **implement** solutions / plans? And do we use data to adapt over time?