

Appendix B: NiNMoM Working Definition of *Data Literacy*

Summary of teacher–scientist workshop discussion

1. What knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) does everyone need to know (about data and working with data) when they graduate high school?

- a. Life skill _____ approaches
 1. Determination/perseverance in looking at graphs and data sets
 2. Don't rely on Google
 3. Teamwork and where to go for help
- b. Interpretation
 1. Sources of bias
 2. Error and uncertainty
 3. Asking questions about the data
 4. Solving equations
 5. Linear regression
 6. Finding the best representation of a data set
 7. Knowing purpose and type of analysis
 8. Establish confidence in interpretation
 9. Meta-analysis
- c. Specific minimum (?) skills
 1. Understanding data background and history
 2. Comparative analysis
 3. Data vocabulary
 4. Presentation of analysis
 5. Baseline data process techniques
 6. Matrix/matrices
 7. Math language

2. What do all people need for their life (regarding data)?

- a. Being comfortable with uncertainty
- b. Basic data analysis
- c. Correlation versus causation
- d. Definitions of *theory* versus *hypothesis*: How data and evidence fit into this understanding
- e. Understanding models (strengths, limitations, and how they are created)
- f. Basic correlational statistics
- g. Connecting data and interpretation to life and choices
- h. Recognizing we all have an impact on data
- i. Adaptive management
- j. Recognizing what is an accurate representation of data and what is not

- k. Baseline computer proficiency
- l. Open mindset
- m. Basic interpretation skills
- n. Statistics and data vocabulary understanding
- o. Critical thinking for citizenship
- p. Understanding biases associated with data
 - 1. Misleading graphs or statistics
 - 2. Same data, but different conclusions
- q. Ability to see patterns and draw conclusions from data presented in sources of life
- r. Ability to understand information presented by “experts” (e.g., doctors and media)

3. What do people in STEM fields need for their work?

- a. Character traits
 - 1. Curiosity
 - 2. Drive to investigate problems
 - 3. Flexibility to respond to changing/evolving knowledge and problems
 - 4. Collaborative mindset
- b. Skills
 - 1. Critical thinking skills
 - 2. Able to be aware of self-bias, beliefs, and values
 - 3. Technological literacy
 - 4. Communication
 - 5. Organization
 - 6. Math literacy
- c. Content knowledge
 - 1. Interacting with areas outside of expertise
 - 2. Appreciation of other fields
 - 3. Good understanding of problems at hand
 - 4. Ethics
- d. Training and access to resources
 - 1. Professional development
 - 2. Adequate resources
 - 3. Creativity of resources, integration, and ideas
 - 4. Data management (storing and backing up data)

4. If “regular” literacy is reading and writing, then what is data literacy?

- a. Understanding and communicating natural systems
- b. Appreciation of complexity of systems
- c. Assessing limits of inference of data sets

- d. Assessing data validity
- e. Interpreting data
- f. Gathering meaning from data
- g. Ability to present data to multitude of audiences
- h. Statistical analysis
- i. Making sense of and knowing the difference between quantitative and qualitative data
- j. Understanding data vocabulary
- k. Understanding how and where data come from
- l. Being able to think critically about data
- m. Understanding there are many ways to interpret data
- n. Being able to tell a story by connecting data to context and personal reality
- o. Ability to correctly interpret and present data (e.g., making and understanding graphs)
- p. Observations (inferences/implications)
- q. Understanding limitations of data
- r. Interpretation of appropriate generalizations

5. What are barriers and constraints to achieving data literacy?

- a. Lack of training (i.e., background and statistical)
- b. Time
- c. Technological literacy
- d. Figuring out strategies to analyze and interpret data
- e. Lack of emotional buy-in
- f. Lack of teacher confidence in numbers affects students' views of numbers
- g. Helping students understand how it is relevant to their lives
- h. Finding a natural and not forced method of incorporating data into a unit
- i. Data interpretation can be messy
- j. Diverse student ability
- k. Teaching data analysis and interpretation to students
- l. Finding data sets relevant for certain subjects
- m. Resource availability