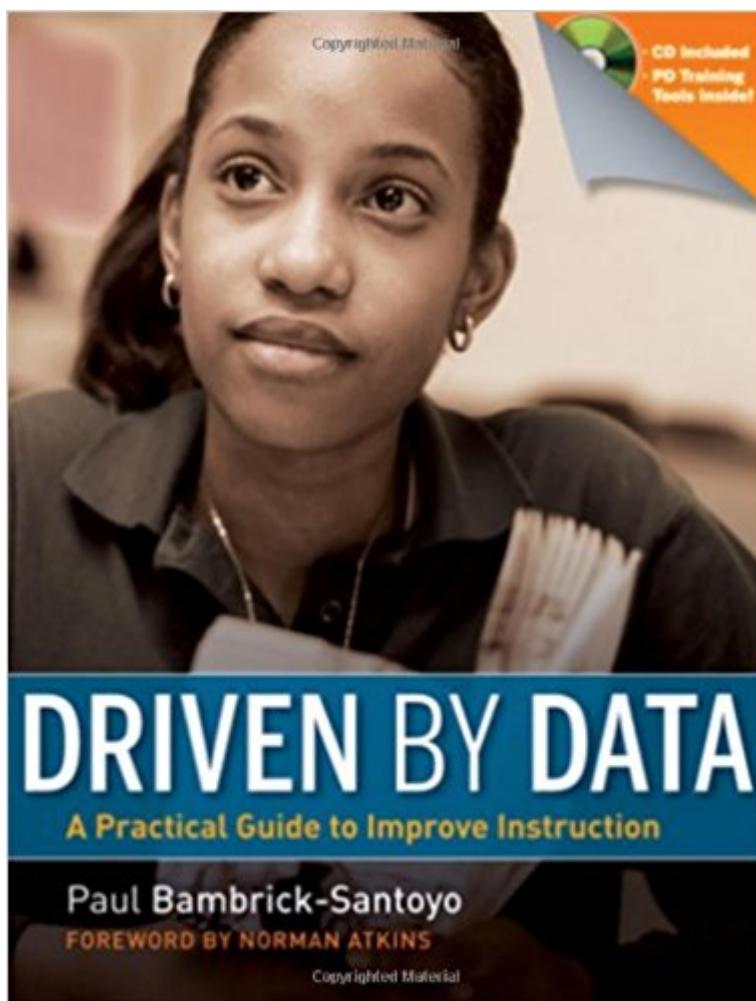


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# Driven By Data: A Practical Guide To Improve Instruction



## **Synopsis**

Driven by Data offers valuable tips and general guidelines about data-based methods and the difficulties surrounding the implementation of data-driven instruction. Through a CD-ROM, this guidebook provides all the tools needed to launch data-driven instruction effectively, such as an implementation rubric, meeting agendas, calendars, assessment templates, and more. Written by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, who has worked with over 1,000 schools across the nation, the book clearly shows how to maneuver through assessments and statistics. Bambrick-Santoyo offers vital tips, such as: how to create a data culture, how to run a successful data analysis meeting, how to write quality assessments, and how to deal with resistance from your teachers. The book also includes twenty case studies of high-performing schools. School leaders will find this resource useful for achieving remarkable results and immense gains, regardless of the school's background, leader, or demographic. Note: CD-ROM/DVD and other supplementary materials are not included as part of eBook file.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Praise for Driven by Data "This gem is one of the most important books to come out on American education in years. Paul Bambrick-Santoyo speaks with great credibility, given the tremendous results of low-income students under his leadership. Three cheers to a front-line educator for kicking off a new genre of non-fiction writing in education: a practical guide for dramatic school improvement that proves that children from every background can achieve at high levels when we

as adults get our part right." •Jon Schnur, co-founder and chief executive officer, New Leaders for New Schools, and senior advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan "This book superbly describes the change process that leaders can go through with their faculty in order to make data-driven instruction a reality in their schools. You'll also find the rationale and all of the structures for data analysis, scripts of how to analyze student thinking and come up with appropriate re-teaching strategies for weak areas, and precise guidance on how to run effective data meetings. This is the whole package." •Jon Saphier, founder and president, Research for Better Teaching, and chairman emeritus of Teachers 21 "Paul Bambrick-Santoyo's book is a triple threat to the achievement gap: not only has he presided over dramatic achievement gains at the schools he leads in Newark, New Jersey, but he has helped scores of other schools make similar gains in New York City, Chicago, New Orleans, Oakland, and elsewhere around the country. He has distilled the lessons learned into a brilliant, tightly organized, and highly practical book. Bravo to Paul for an amazing contribution to the field!" •Kim Marshall, leadership consultant and veteran school principal, author of *The Marshall Memo* and of *Rethinking Teacher Supervision and Evaluation: How to Work Smart, Build Collaboration, and Close the Achievement Gap*

Paul Bambrick-Santoyo is managing director of Uncommon Schools, leading six schools in the North Star Academy network that have achieved some of the highest results in the country. He has trained over 2,000 school leaders nationwide and is the Data-Driven Instruction faculty member for New Leaders for New Schools, the leading national urban school leadership training program.

Great book! I have used data for a long time but had my understandings about how to best use data expanded with this book.

After teaching for fifteen years, I had the opportunity to teach at North Star Academy in Newark, NJ. It is a challenging place to work, but it is worth it because you know you are making a difference. In a district where less than 5% of students make it through college, North Star sends 100% of its graduates to college and is on course to have over 75% of its alumni complete a degree. And it does all of this without being selective about the students who attend. One of the main reasons North Star is successful is because it is "driven by data". Decisions on what happens in the classroom are not made arbitrarily, but are determined by careful examination of interim assessments of students. With this information, teachers are able to craft a classroom experience that helps all students maximize their performance to the point where North Star has closed the

achievement gap and because one of the most successful urban schools in the nation. Data-driven decision-making has descended to the level of jargon in education these days but, done right, it is one of the most powerful tools in a school's arsenal. Unfortunately, too many schools don't do it right and have tarnished a great idea. At North Star, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo has made it work. Now, he shares what works with school leaders and teachers across the nation in meetings and workshops. This book outlines the process. The first half of the book covers what data-driven decision-making is and how it is meant to work in a school. He shares what should be the roles of teachers, school leaders, and district leaders for effective implementation. He shares anecdotes and data from various schools that have implemented the system effectively (including North Star). Also, he shares what is probably the most important idea of all: unlike many school changes, this one does not require "buy in" to work. Implemented as designed and buy in will come because success will come in spite of obstacles. The second half of the book is a step-by-step outline for delivering effective workshops to implement the system. Activities and documents are all described and made available in the CD-ROM included with the book. Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo has made it about as easy as possible for those who want to implement it to make it work. I have seen Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo deliver this workshop and he is one of the best at it. (In my days before North Star, I delivered some workshops on the topic myself but not, I fear, with Paul's skill.) No book can replace having him in the room, but this book has all the tools there if only you are willing to pick them up and use them the way he outlines. Your school can only be the better for it.

This book is the real deal. It's not about certified best practices or fancy questionnaires that yield meaningless results. It's about identifying what really matters and putting in place the culture, metrics and practices that will yield real results and schools that have really done it. This is the one book I am recommending to everybody at my institution who proposes or asks about improving effectiveness. Now if only I could get the attention of those people above me who keep hiring consultants with their one size fits all technologies and canned solutions ...

I chose this book because I read a later book (Leverage Leadership) by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, during an administrative book club. I quickly realized I should have read Driven By Data first. Driven By Data is a great book to use in leading professional development focusing on Assessments and Data for staff. I would present more basic foundational assessment information before attempting this book with a staff unless they have some basic understanding regarding creating & analyzing assessments. This book is a great choice for Professional Learning Communities who are

functioning at a pretty strong level.

Simple and effective, this book allows a busy teacher to get to the basics of applying data to teaching strategies in an efficient manner. Written for easy comprehension, the book is not a highly technical piece for researchers, but a solid manual for those who may not have a background in data analysis.

Love it! Provides creditable researched information.

This is a practical and insightful book and almost every page holds key words and phrases I could use in presentations. I would have been happy to pay more for the ebook if it had included the templates from the cd rom. I understand the challenges involved but I don't think they are insurmountable.

Great resources for principals, data coaches, and other school leaders! The book provides step by step instructions on how to create a culture that values data, how to achieve results, and how to analyze information to support struggling students. This book even provides outlines for how to train staff on its ideas. Very useful.

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