Thursday Dinner Discussion Questions

Defining Student Success

- What should count as student success (outcome variables)?
  - Which of these outcome variables are measurable?
  - Which of these outcome variables are of interest to school districts? Teachers? Parents? Researchers? Policy-makers? Legislators/Boards of Education?
  - Which of these outcome variables are more appropriate for short- vs long-term goals?
- What does count (currently) as student success?
- How might we bridge the gap between “does count” and “should count”?

Considering VAM

- What covariates (if any) ought to be include in VAM?
  - Consider the “challenge index” presented earlier today by Dr. Mark Reckase. To what extent are comparable data sets available for your project/district/state?
- How could/should VAM estimates of teacher effectiveness and/or program effect based on a model that incorporates desired student outcome variables be used?

Building Partnerships

- What are strategies for cultivating relationships among stakeholders (school districts, researchers, evaluators, policymakers, teachers, STEM faculty, professional developers, data warehouses, departments of education) that could potentially lead to better data sharing, data uses, and data analyses?
- What are the current barriers to close relationships among stakeholders? How can these be addressed/overcome?