Practical Implementation Tips
Benchmarking & Improvement Selection

Consider Reversing the Assessment Order

Maximize participant engagement and help focus assessment discussions and outcomes by beginning with Area E (Act on Data) and working backwards through the remaining areas. This approach will:

- **Encourage participants to "keep the end in mind"** when discussing data and system gaps and improvements.
- **Establish a common picture of current and desired data-driven decision-making capabilities** before working through progressively more detailed, specific discussions.
- **Build from context gathered through discussions of the preceding assessment areas** to support more informed, streamlined discussion of subsequent, more detailed assessment areas.

Defining Improvements to Close Gaps

- **Use the default improvements lists provided as part of the assessment as a starting point** to help the group identify more specific improvement actions. Note: The default improvements are also useful for helping participants to understand the different benchmark practice levels because they indicate what needs to be done to move to a higher level.
- **Use the Improvement Notes Field to record more specific improvement actions** – these might be more detailed or granular than the default improvements or they might combine multiple default improvements together.
- **Capture nuances of group improvement discussion** to avoid future misinterpretations of the suggested improvements and prevent the need to revisit what was already discussed at future meetings.