

## **TRACKING PARTY: Get help with your tracking tools!**

It's the biggest tracking party of the 2008 diagnostic tracking season! Come join the Department of Data and get help with the tracking tools from those who built them. No question is too small!

**Tracking Party (a.k.a. Office Hours) in the Resource Room**  
**Monday, June 23, 6:00-8:00pm / Tuesday, June 24, 8:30-10:00pm**



## **Attention Macintosh Users**

[datarising.wordpress.com](http://datarising.wordpress.com)

### Notes about crashing issues using ISAT Tracking Tools

This year's Student Achievement tracking tools (the ISAT Tracking Tools) are implemented as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

Microsoft Excel for the Macintosh has stability issues that cause Microsoft Excel to crash at unpredictable times (not just with our ISAT spreadsheets). While we have tried to test our tools thoroughly prior to release, we are still experiencing problems with certain configurations of the Mac OS with **both Microsoft Excel 2004 and 2008**. Please use the guidance below in working with the ISAT Tracking Tools this summer:

#### **1) If you are experiencing this general problem:**

**Using the ISAT Tracking Tool spreadsheets on a Macintosh causes unpredictable crashes and error messages, which could mean a loss of data.**

There currently aren't any known solutions for this problem, and we highly recommend that your collaborative use a computer with Microsoft Windows for your data entry. Since we ask for each collaborative to turn in only one tool (per subject), we hope that this will not be a major inconvenience.

#### **2) If you are experiencing this specific problem:**

**For ISAT Tracking Tools with "The Grouper" feature, entering data into the second column of the "Diagnostic" page can cause Excel to crash predictably. Microsoft has confirmed that this is a bug in Microsoft Excel and is working with us to identify a workaround.**

"The Grouper" is not a critical feature, and removing it seems to solve this problem. To do so, go to "The Grouper" and choose "Delete Sheet" from the Edit menu. Repeat this process for the sheet "The Grouper-part2". After deleting these sheets, you may experience an error message regarding "Circular References". From our testing, the tool functions correctly and we believe you can safely ignore this message.

#### **3) If you are experiencing this specific problem:**

**Some users report that the "Subjects" pop-up menu on the Main Menu is not displaying all subjects.**

Temporarily access a Windows computer (or a Macintosh that is not experiencing this problem) to determine the correct name of your subject. Instead of choosing the subject from the pop-up menu, type it in. The spelling must be correct.

## **Experiencing other problems?**

**Please email a description of your problem to [isatrackingtools@teachforamerica.org](mailto:isatrackingtools@teachforamerica.org).**

Please be extremely specific in describing the problem, and include your Microsoft Excel and Mac OS version numbers. While we can't guarantee real-time support via this email address during the summer (please see your CMA for tool support), we will do our best to research problems and identify solutions when possible. Your feedback will also be extremely valuable in planning next year's tools.