

## **Canon 5: Be accountable and hold others accountable for ethical use of data**

District leaders were worried about the outcome of the state reading assessment. The stakes were so high that the district's data steward and testing coordinator were even more careful than usual to make sure that the results, no matter what they might be, were accurate. Thus, they were surprised when the superintendent stopped by on a Friday afternoon for an unprecedented "friendly" chat. "So," he began. "I know you two are trusted staff members who are full of integrity, and I would never ask you to be anything but that way—but I do want you to know that these test scores are very important to our community, and any way we can view the glass as half full rather than half empty would be greatly appreciated. For example, even though we might not have made our testing targets, we did show some growth, which is what our public reporting needs to show. Do you understand that?" He was clearly implying that the public and even the school board shouldn't see all of the test results. The data steward and testing coordinator understood that the failing subgroups represented only a small portion of the students who were tested, but they also knew that it was disingenuous to show only the favorable results—and they prepared themselves for an ethical dilemma in the face of such pressure from their boss.