

Key Education Issues and Their Assessment Applications

Level of Assessment/ Key Issues	Formative Applications	Summative Applications
Ongoing classroom assessment		
<i>Key decisions to be informed:</i>	What have students mastered? What do they still need to learn?	What level of mastery has each student attained? What grade does each student receive?
<i>Who are the decision makers?</i>	Students and teachers.	Teachers.
<i>What information do they need?</i>	Evidence of where the student is now on the learning continuum toward each standard.	Evidence of each student's mastery of each relevant standard.
<i>What are the essential assessment conditions?</i>	Clear curriculum maps per standard. Accurate assessment results. Descriptive feedback. Results that point student and teacher clearly to next steps.	Clear and appropriate standards. Accurate evidence. Assessment results that focus on achievement only. Evidence that is accurately summed up. Grading symbols that carry clear and consistent meaning for all.
Periodic interim/benchmark assessment		
<i>Key decisions to be informed:</i>	Which standards are our students not mastering? Where can we improve instruction right away? Which students need specific help?	Did the program of instruction deliver as promised? Should we continue to use it?
<i>Who are the decision makers?</i>	Instructional leaders, learning teams, and teachers.	Instructional leaders.
<i>What information do they need?</i>	Standards students are struggling to master. Evidence of level of mastery of particular standards.	Evidence of mastery of particular standards.
<i>What are the essential assessment conditions?</i>	Clear and appropriate standards. Accurate assessment results. Results that show how each student did in mastering each standard.	Clear and appropriate standards. Accurate assessment results. Results that show mastery of program standards aggregated over students.

<i>Annual state/district standardized testing</i>		
<i>Key decisions to be informed:</i>	What standards are our students not mastering? Where and how can we improve instruction next year?	Are enough students meeting standards?
<i>Who are the decision makers?</i>	Curriculum and instructional leaders.	School and community leaders.
<i>What information do they need?</i>	Standards students are struggling to master.	Percent of students meeting <i>each</i> standard.
<i>What are the essential assessment conditions?</i>	Accurate evidence of how <i>each</i> student did in mastering <i>each</i> standard aggregated over students.	Accurate evidence of how <i>each</i> student did in mastering <i>each</i> standard aggregated over students.