

Assessment Balance and Quality: An Action Guide for School Leaders

Seven Actions

1. Balance Your Assessment System
2. Refine Achievement Standards
3. Ensure Assessment Quality
4. Help Learners Become Assessors by Using AFL Strategies in the Classroom
5. Build Communication Systems that Both Support and Report Learning
6. Motivate Students with Learning Success
7. Promote the Development of Assessment Literacy

Ten Competencies

1. Understands the attributes of a sound and balanced assessment system, and the conditions required to achieve balance in local systems
2. Understands the necessity of clear academic achievement standards, aligned classroom-level achievement targets, and their relationship to the development of accurate assessments.
3. Understands the standards of quality for student assessments, helps teachers learn to assess accurately, and ensures that these standards are met in all school/district assessments
4. Knows assessment *for* learning practices and works with staff to integrate them into classroom instruction
5. Creates the conditions necessary for the appropriate use and reporting of student achievement information, and can communicate effectively with all members of the school community about student assessment results, including report card grades, and their relationship to improving curriculum and instruction.
6. Understands the issues related to the unethical and inappropriate use of student assessment and protects students and staff from misuse.
7. Can plan, present, and/or secure professional development activities that contribute to the use of sound assessment practices.
8. Knows and can evaluate teachers' classroom assessment competencies, and helps teachers learn to assess accurately and use the results to benefit student learning.
9. Analyzes student assessment information accurately, uses the information to improve curriculum and instruction, and assists teachers in doing the same.
10. Develops and implements sound assessment and assessment-related policies.