



POWERSHOT COMPANION

Student Learning Assessments: Types & Purposes

This document supports the presentation and video PowerShot:

Student Learning Assessments: Types & Purposes

available on PDE's PA Data PowerShot webpage at www.pa.gov >

Who might use this Powershot?

The intended audience is District/LEA Leaders, School Leaders, Teachers, and Teacher Leaders.

Why use this Powershot?

This Powershot describes how educators can:

- enhance understanding of the four types of student learning assessments and the benefits associated with using a range of student learning assessments
- promote use of summative, formative, benchmark and diagnostic assessments at the school and classroom levels
- evaluate assessment plans to ensure a range of assessments are in place

How might you use this PA Data Powershot in your work?

There are a number of opportunities to make use of this Powershot:

- **Use at a LEA/district level administrative meeting** to ensure consistency in understanding the categories of student learning assessments
- **Share with school leadership teams** to provide a framework for why school assessment calendars/map incorporate these four types of student learning assessments
- **View and discuss** at school and grade/subject level data meetings
- **Use in Induction** with new teachers
- **Use in onboarding** with new administrators (LEA/district or school level)
- **Share with veteran staff** to enhance the understanding of the purpose of each type of student learning assessment, and how it is to be used at the school, grade/subject, and classroom level.
- **Show at the beginning of a professional development day or data day** to ensure understanding of the purpose and use of the different types of student learning data
- **Use as an informal data “audit”** where each grade/subject level team can determine where they are regarding the use of a variety of student learning data: do gaps or overlaps within a grade/subject or with a particular student group exist?

What are possible follow-up action steps?

- Work with staff to identify student learning assessments by type:
 - » Have each data team list all student learning assessments currently in use
 - » After viewing the video, have staff match assessments given, the type of each, and how each is to be used
- Create an informal “audit” checklist to ensure all four types of student learning data are being used at the grade/subject/classroom level
 - » Are their gaps/overlaps for students within a subject/grade/student group? What types of assessments might we need to add or eliminate?
- Create an informal “audit” to address WHAT and HOW staff use each type, including evidence that the following are occurring:
 - » Are formative assessments being used to inform teaching and learning?
 - » Are summative assessments being used to evaluate teaching and learning at the end of a specific unit of study or period of time?
 - » Are diagnostic assessments being used to pinpoint skill gaps that might need focused instruction for individual/groups of students?
 - » Are benchmark assessments being used to evaluate where students are relative to meeting end of year/course outcomes?
 - ◆ Which students are on track at BOY and MOY?
 - ◆ Which students are at moderate or high risk at BOY and MOY?
 - ◆ What supports are we giving and are students responding?
 - » Are teachers using a mix of types of student learning assessments to capture the full picture of teaching and learning?
- Engage students in goal setting based on assessments

Links to Resources

You may access the resources referenced in the PA Data Powershot with the provided links below:

- Multiple Measures – Bernhardt, V. L., (1998, March). Invited Monograph No. 4.CASCD, https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/curriculum/pdf/multiple_measures.pdf
- Benchmark Assessment for Improved Learning, <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED524108.pdf>

