Istation

Reporting Student Growth:

10 Assessment Must-Haves

Assessments are the starting point for measuring student growth and providing educators with insight for next steps. Consider these essentials to get the most effective, efficient assessment tools for your school:

EDTECH BREAKTHROUGH AWARD 2020
ONLINE LEARNING INNOVATION AWARD

10 Link to Instruction

Assessments should empower educators to make data-driven instructional decisions. Easy-to-read data that links to next steps is key to helping students get the personalized instruction they need to achieve powerful growth.

9 Computer-Adaptive

Choose tools that are computer adaptive, that can be completed in approximately 30 minutes, and that provide real-time data. Computer-adaptive assessments save teachers valuable instructional time.

8 Provide Immediate Results

Results should be available on-demand so that intervention and instruction plans can be developed and implemented. Fast, accurate, real-time data is a starting point for educators to plan what's next.

7 Device Agnostic

Ensure that whatever assessment and progress-monitoring tool being implemented can be used across many devices (PC, Mac, Chromebook, iOS, Android, etc.) to ensure equity for students across different levels of technological availability.

6 Streamline Assessment Tools

The assessment and progress-monitoring tools used should be the same across all tiers of instruction. This gives stakeholders at all levels the ability to share and interpret data in the same way and to streamline professional development.

5 Support Flexibility

The assessments in place should support virtual and remote environments, as well as in-school and hybrid models, and show validity and reliability in those environments.

4 Promote Student Choice, Voice, and Agency

It's important that students complete assessments using progress-monitoring protocols. If the assessments are game-like, engaging, and fun, then students are more likely to complete them without the typical test-taking stress.

3 Progress Monitor Frequently

Whether using an MTSS framework model, RTI model, or RTI-squared model, progress monitor frequently. Progress monitoring shows the degree of support a student needs, as well as the effectiveness of the instruction and intervention provided.

2 Screen Three Times Per Year

It is crucial to know exactly where students stand, especially at the beginning of the year. That data will empower educators to build a plan of action and schedule progress monitoring.

1 Valid and Reliable Data

Choose assessments that are based on scientific and independent research studies. Make sure they've gone through rigorous data reviews and have been normed. Ensure the assessments being considered have been designed for or tested in a remote-learning environment to meet the needs of students learning at home or school.

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