

## Chapter 1 Classroom Assessment for Student Success

### Chapter Focus

#### *A Teacher's Classroom Assessment Responsibilities*

Fruitful Outcomes: Gathering accurate evidence of achievement using a process that enhances both the students' desire to learn and their achievement.

Failure Outcomes: Gathering inaccurate information and using it poorly can do long-lasting damage to students

### A Story of Assessment for Student Success

#### *Success from the Student's Point of View*

It's okay not to be very good at something at first; it is NOT okay to stay there. Small improvements daily build confidence.

#### *The Keys to Success*

1. Assessment is a student involved activity during the learning.
2. Learning target is clearly developed.
3. Teacher assessment of student work must be focused and accurate.

#### *Some Students Aren't So Lucky*

1. The learning target has no educational value (how many pages).
2. The learning target or feedback confuses the learner.
3. Teacher feedback disappoints the learner.

#### *Other Potential Problems*

Teachers may lack a vision for success; focus on an "incorrect" one (e.g. YSU Psych professor's weak link); or keep the secrets of success a mystery to maintain their own power.

### Anticipating and Avoiding Assessment Problems

#### *We Need "Valid" Assessments*

1. Valid assessments provide a high-quality representation of desired learning.
2. Valid assessments are valid for only a specific purpose or set of purposes.

#### *We Need "Reliable" Assessments*

Reliable assessments yield consistent results

#### *Assessment FOR Learning: GPS for Student Success*

The teacher is the satellite and the students use the feedback to keep themselves on track or set new destinations.

## The Changing Mission of Schools and Role of Assessment

PAST: Schools are no longer asked to **weed out** the unable and unwilling; then to **rank** those who remain in school.

PRESENT: Schools are asked to **prepare all students** to meet more rigorous academic achievement standards that prepare them for success in college and in the workplace.

FUTURE: ?????

### *Important Benefits to You in Understanding the Principles of Sound Classroom Assessment as discussed in this class*

1. **BEING EFFECTIVE:** The principles of sound classroom assessment can yield remarkable gains in student achievement.
2. **BEING POLITICAL:** Assessment tasks and issues dominate educational conversations in today's schools and legislative bodies. Understanding procedures described in this class can make your work in this area MUCH easier.
3. **BEING EMPLOYED:** The ideas presented in this class often run counter to decades of assessment traditions in schools. You will be challenged to return to "conventional" practice and need to withstand and reform, where possible, these ideas.

### A Fundamental Assessment Belief

Whatever else we do, we must help students believe that success in learning is within reach.

### The Emotional Dynamics of Assessment

Strong to weak self-efficacy – student self-talk regarding responding to challenges – to quote Stiggins "no single decision or combination of decisions made by any other party exerts such influence on student success"

### *A Special Note about Struggling Learners*

The struggling learner is behind . . . what should be taught next to this learner? The only reasonable answer is what comes next in their learning progression; forget the "should have learned" or "grade-level expectation – it is neither ethical nor pedagogically sound to hold students accountable for achievement targets they have no hope of hitting.

## Guides to Valid and Reliable Assessment Effectively Used

*Guiding Principle 1: CLEAR PURPOSE - Start with a Clear Purpose: Why Am I Assessing?*

*Guiding Principle 2: CLEAR TARGET - Start with Clear and Appropriate Achievement Targets: Assess What?*

*Guiding Principle 3: QUALITY ASSESSMENT - Create High-Quality Assessments That Yield Dependable Information*

*Guiding Principle 4: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION - Communicate Results Effectively Students (feedback), Parents, Superiors, Citizens*

## An Overarching Principle: Student Involvement

The importance of melding student participation in assessment with instruction

## Summary: The Importance of Sound Assessment

## Practice with Chapter 1 Ideas