

Address Assessment Challenges and Improve Student Learning With WestEd

Schools and districts need accurate, meaningful, and useful information about student learning. As a result, local education agencies (LEAs) spend significant resources adopting additional assessments, often without seeing resulting improvements in student learning outcomes.

WestEd offers solutions that can guide schools and districts in addressing the systemic factors that support the effective use of data to advance learning.

Optimize Assessment Systems for Coherence and Efficiency

One common reason districts struggle to make use of assessment data is that their assessments are not well aligned with their specific teaching, learning, and system improvement needs. WestEd helps districts gain a clear picture of the assessments administered in the district and how the resulting data are used to inform decisions. Our rigorous evaluation process engages interest holders to gather data that provides insights into the coherence, value, and return on investment of specific assessments.

This process identifies redundancies and possible gaps among assessments in the system, positioning leaders to streamline and maximize the efficiency of the local assessment system. Districts build internal capacity through an assessment advisory board and receive evidence-based, actionable recommendations from WestEd to build a system that can effectively use assessment data to advance learning.



Build Educator Capacity Through Assessment Literacy and Practice

Translating assessment data into actionable insights is a crucial educator responsibility, but many educators receive limited professional learning to help them do so effectively. WestEd's [tailored assessment literacy workshops](#) help build educators' assessment literacy and capacity to use data. Our professional learning workshops explore popular topics, including the purpose, selection, and appropriate use of summative, interim, screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, and classroom assessments.

We also work with educators to strengthen their classroom assessment practice through designing performance assessments, engaging in the formative assessment process, and using assessments to support learning for specific student populations, such as students with disabilities and Multilingual Learners. Participating educators are equipped to select and design high-quality assessment tools, use formative assessment in their day-to-day instruction, and to use assessment results to support meaningful improvements in learning for all students.

Develop a Culture of Data-Based Inquiry

WestEd takes a comprehensive and collaborative approach to helping districts connect data to instructional practice and system improvements. We address common pitfalls that can lead to data being misinterpreted, misused, or ignored. Our team guides districts to establish a vision for data use, build data literacy through interactive professional learning, establish data teams and provide them with research-based structures and tools, and plan for formative and summative analysis for maximum impact. Districts develop individual staff capacity to use data and build a robust, sustainable infrastructure for educators to work collaboratively to analyze data and engage in data-driven decision-making that improves teaching and learning.

Engage Partners to Communicate Effectively About Assessment Data

Partners, from school boards to teacher teams to parent groups, play an essential role in interpreting and responding to data, but they need descriptive, curated data they can easily understand. WestEd collaborates with administrators and educators to help them communicate effectively about data and assessment with their unique, local audiences.

Our customized professional learning, technical assistance, and tools help districts present clear and contextual data that helps partners understand what the data does and does not convey and draw appropriate conclusions that can achieve desired outcomes.



Take the Next Step
to Strengthen
Assessment Systems

Contact Jessica Arnold at jarnold@wested.org to learn how you can partner with WestEd to streamline your assessment systems, build educator capacity for data use, and develop a culture of data-informed improvement for greater student success.