Essential Components of a Balanced Local District Assessment System

Level of Assessment and Key Issues		Formative Applications	Summative Applications	
Classr	coom assessment			
0	Key decision(s) to be informed?	What comes next in the student's learning?	What standards has each student mastered? What grade does each student receive?	
0	Who is the decision maker?	Students and teachers	Teacher	
0	What information do they need?	Evidence of where the student is now on learning progression leading to each standard?	Evidence of each student's mastery of each relevant standard	
0	What are the essential assessment conditions?	 Clear curriculum maps per standard Accurate assessment results Descriptive feedback Results point student and teacher clearly to next steps 	 Clear and appropriate standards Accurate evidence Focus on achievement only Evidence well summarized Grading symbols that carry clear and consistent meaning for all 	
Interin	m/benchmark			
assessment				
0	Key decision to be informed?	Which standards are our students not mastering? Where can we improve instruction right away? Which students need specific help?	Did the program of instruction deliver as promised? Should we continue to use it?	
0	Who is the decision maker?	Instructional leaders; Learning teams; Teachers	Instructional leaders	

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0	What information do they need?	Any standards students are struggling to master	Evidence of mastery of standard
0	What are the essential conditions?	 Clear and appropriate standards Accurate assessment results Results reveal how each student did in mastering each standard 	Accurate assessments of mastery of program standards aggregated over students
Annual testing			
0	Key decision(s) to be informed?	Which standards are our students mastering/not? Where and how can we improve instruction over the long term?	Are enough students meeting standards?
0	Who is the decision maker?	Curriculum & instructional leaders	School and community leaders
0	What information do they need?	Standards students are struggling to master	Percent of students meeting each standard
0	What are the essential assessment conditions?	Accurate evidence of how each student did in mastering each standard aggregated over students	Accurate evidence of how each student did in mastering each standard aggregated over students

Rick Stiggins Assessment Consultant Lake Oswego OR