Inputs

What do schools and education do to achieve assessment goals?

Activities

How does Pear Assessment provide impactful formative assessment experiences for students and teachers?

Outcomes

What does the research tell us about potential benefits of Pear Assessment when it is used to support effective instructional practices?

Administer Formative Assessments to Prepare students for Summative Assessments

In order to prepare for summative assessments, schools and educators must proactively and frequently evaluate where their students are at so they can make informed decisions on how to proceed.

Proactively Address Student Progress and Drive Mastery

To support student learning goals, schools and educators can regularly measure student progress and support their academic growth through use of frequent low-stakes practice assessments.

Support Student Persistence and Self-Efficacy

Putting the student at the center of their own learning journey is essential for individual learning growth. Schools and educators can serve this drive by providing students with the tools they need to be active participants in their learning.

Improved Performance Forecasting and Data-Driven Decision-Making

- Pear Assessment features certified standards-aligned content and progress reporting that allows educators to be aware of real-time trends in student performance to inform decisions about future instruction and preparation.
- The Pear Assessment content library hosts common formative assessments (CFA) that can be used to get district-wide insight into student performance.
- The Live Class Board, Insights reports, and premium Data Studio features give educators insight into the performance data they need to proactively decide what their classrooms need to reach their assessment and learning goals.

Design That Supports Regular Low-Stakes Assessment

- Pear Assessment features an extensive library of rigorous content to meet a variety of academic goals, whether preparing for state summative assessments, meeting mastery requirements for state standards, or simply getting additional practice across a large number of subject areas and skills.
- Educators can utilize Pear Assessment's wide range of tech-enhanced item types to easily adapt classroom content into digital assessments and support students' higher-order thinking by asking students to apply their knowledge in various ways.
- Pear Assessment's testing environment is highly customizable to meet classroom needs. Features such as the On-Screen Calculator, Timed Assignments, Hints, Partial-Credit, and Shuffle enable teachers to adapt the testing environment. Features such as text-to-speech, on-screen keyboard, text magnification, and highlighting make learning accessible for all students.

Granular Process Monitoring and Item Tagging for Differentiated Instruction

- Pear Assessment's Live Class Board, Insights reporting, and premium Data Studio feature granular progress monitoring of student and class performance so educators can differentiate instructional support to suit students' unique needs.
- Pear Assessment progress monitoring tools allow educators to organize student performance data by performance band levels, mastery completion, and performance over time to allow for timely support and intervention for individual students.
- Pear Assessment items can be filtered by depth of knowledge, question type, and difficulty, allowing educators to create a unique experience for their students based on where they are in their learning journeys.

Student-Facing Feedback and Mastery Reporting

- Pear Assessment's student-facing reporting feature gives students insights into their academic performance and level of mastery by domain and standard, so they always know how they are performing and can have greater ownership over their learning progress.
- Through Pear Assessment's student dashboard, students can access teacher feedback on past assessments for reference and reflection as they move forward with their learning.

School Efficacy

The use of formative assessment and formative evaluation strategies has been shown to be an effective strategy for gathering widespread insight into student progress[1], assessing the quality of a learning procedure or program[2], and identifying areas to adjust instruction to support individual students[3]. Ultimately, research into formative assessment and progress monitoring techniques have found that the utilization of formative assessment and data-driven evaluation approach can result in more effective decisions being made across multiple areas within a school.[4]

Academic Achievement and Growth

- Effective use of formative assessment and evaluation strategies has been shown to have the potential to improve quality of education and create widespread improvements in school level performance[4].
- Employing frequent low- or no-stakes practice experiences has been shown to result in significant learning gains over studying across ages, abilities, and discipline[5].
- Research on utilization of progress monitoring for at-risk students has demonstrated that when teachers adjust instruction in response to progress monitoring measures for an individual student, they may see significant gains in academic achievement[6].
- A study on the characteristics of classrooms that display higher than average persistence rates found that providing materials at appropriate levels of higher academic challenge was a common characteristic among the study's more effective classrooms[7].
- Pairing practice testing with feedback on correct answer choices has been shown to be a robustly effective strategy for improved academic performance and growth[5].

Equitable Learning

- A study looking at the effects of employing regular low-stakes formative and dynamic assessment strategies found that these low-stakes practice opportunities significantly decreased self-reported measures of test anxiety in EFL learners[8].
- Similarly, another study found that administration of low-stakes formative assessments mediated female physics students' test anxiety by acting as an intervention for lower levels of self-efficacy, a result that has been observed across a number of disciplines and institutions[9].
- Research has shown that progress monitoring is an effective way to direct teachers towards influential factors of student progress. Therefore, systematic progress monitoring is an effective method to bring attention to a potential concern in student progress, and to signal the need for additional or alternative instruction[10].
- In a study concerned with re-engaging students at risk for failing or dropping out, it was found that classrooms that emphasized the delivery of timely and effective feedback and provided a structured and adaptable learning environment that met students' unique needs were more effective at cognitively re-engaging at-risk students[11].
- Additionally, this study found student-facing learning goals and progress monitoring was a common component in classrooms that were effectively able to re-engage at-risk students. By providing students with insight into how their behaviors and performance translates to outcomes, educators can increase students' locus of control and self-efficacy[11].

Student Self-Efficacy

- Higher rates of timely and effective feedback have been shown to result in increased levels of self-efficacy and self-reported feelings of competence in students[12].
- Feedback practices that build a healthy attribution of failure and success have been shown to improve student self-efficacy and increase students' locus of control, which translates to greater engagement and persistence in learning[11].

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