



Understanding Assessment

FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Literacy Network of Kansas (LiNK), a federal Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy initiative, in collaboration with Measurement in Practice provides this series for participants to gain a better understanding of a balanced assessment system for English Language Arts. While the series focuses on ELA, sessions can be used for all content areas.

Understanding Balanced Assessment

1. How summative, interim, and formative assessments work together in a balanced assessment system.
2. What is aligned assessment?

Developing Actionable Classroom Assessments

3. Writing diagnostic items for a classroom assessment
4. Interpreting results from a classroom assessment

Sessions 1 and 2 focus on differences among the state summative, interim, and formative assessments should be used by educators in the classroom. Interim assessments include those developed by the state, and those purchased from vendors such as NWEA or FastBridge. Videos and facilitation guide resources provide examples of how the three types of assessments can work together to improve student learning. The discussion of alignment between test items and state standards will help educators evaluate both the tests and the feedback they receive from the tests about their students.

Sessions 3 and 4 are designed to help teachers improve their written tests to check student understanding, or to grade performance at the end of a unit. Session 3 describes how to design the tests and write items that can provide valid information, and Session 4 demonstrates how the results can be interpreted and used for an individual student or across a classroom.

Each session contains a video and facilitator guide. Facilitators may guide educators in one of the topics, stopping the video as needed or directed, to provide opportunities for asking questions and completing the exercises. Each video will be approximately 30 minutes long but may take up to 60 minutes to complete if the facilitator guide is followed. Along with the guide, additional examples, exercises, and external references are provided to create a full training session on each topic.

