

ACSI TOWN HALL: ASSESSMENTS

Mission Possible: Assessing COVID Academic Slide for Student Success

Questions to Consider

1. What is my purpose in testing?

Testing is done for many reasons. Some administer testing only because of a legal requirement. Testing should be completed to assess students in a fair manner and ensure that students are progressing. Testing allows educators to see areas a student may be struggling, based on national standards, rather than just a curricular standard.

Take Away: Assess to identify strengths and weakness of students, teachers, and curriculum.

2. What programs do I have available to me?

There are many programs available. ACSI offers solutions to meet the needs of any size school. It is important to select a test that fits your needs and can be used over a period of time. This will enable you to do longitudinal tracking which will help to measure the growth of a student over time. This is very important because you can see areas a student may be weak in and target specific deficiencies over time.

Take Away: No one size fits all. Different test for different goals.

3. Can this be done remotely?

Many companies who offer testing are creating innovative ways to provide remote alternatives so schools can continue with testing.

Take Away: Adapt. Adjust. Overcome. Assess how and when you can.

4. How should I use the data from assessments?

Here is where the rubber meets the road. Data, while important in and of itself, does nothing for you unless it is used to foster a plan of growth. Test data should be interpreted and used to measure student and group growth, as well as come up with plans to implement data driven instruction. This type of instruction ensures that time is utilized in the most effective manner and instruction is delivered to students in areas of need. It is important to use instructional hours to the fullest in order to offer our students a well-rounded education.

Take Away: Failing to plan is planning to fail. Have a plan in place of how you will use the data.

5. The state says I do not have to test this year. Why bother with it?

While it may be true that the legal requirement of testing may have been alleviated this season, it is important to remember your purpose in testing. Students have been learning remotely for some time now, and gaps are sure to form. Providing testing will ensure you are able to close these gaps as quickly as possible.

Take Away: The assessment process needs to be thought of as a cycle—Testing, analyzing the data, and implementing an action plan are the cycle that will help you see results.