

On the Road to Creating a Balanced Assessment System



Balanced Assessment Philosophy Statement:

The belief of the SUSD learning community is that assessment is for student learning, is student-centered and involves a commitment by all stakeholders. Accordingly, assessments serve different purposes dependent upon classroom, district and state level uses. Assessment is standards based, and includes a variety of methods that guide instruction and inform instructional decisions. Student-centered assessment motivates, encourages and inspires students' passion for learning when it is delivered in a timely and reasonable manner and includes purposeful feedback.

The **first priority** of the Assessment Committee was to create a Balanced Assessment Philosophy that would provide the framework for assessments in the Scottsdale unified School District. This philosophy establishes a standards based teaching, learning and assessment model. The Balanced Assessment Philosophy clearly values all levels of assessment (classroom, District and state) as well as all methods for assessing student learning.

The Creating a Balanced Assessment System video ► [Log on here](#)

The **second priority** of the Assessment Committee was to create criteria for future assessment tools. These prioritized criteria were used to develop the Assessment and Instructional Systems Request for Proposal (RFP), the procurement process followed by the District. The RFP Committee, a subcommittee of the Assessment Committee, evaluated all vendors who responded. Based on the evaluation of the programs, it was overwhelmingly clear that Assessment Technology Incorporated (ATI) could provide the District with the most comprehensive solution for implementing a Balanced Assessment System. The RFP Committee members were unanimous in their decision to recommend ATI Galileo to the Governing Board. On Tuesday May 4, 2010 the SUSD Governing Board awarded ATI Galileo the RFP for Assessment and Instructional Systems.

The **third priority** of the Assessment Committee was to create a communication plan that supports the implementation of a Balanced Assessment System. We look forward to providing opportunities for teachers and administrators to recognize that using a Balanced Assessment System aligns fully with the work of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Further, we look forward to demonstrating how Galileo can serve as a tool for PLCs as they implement common assessments to measure essential learning and use data to inform instructional decisions.

In keeping with the DuFour PLC model, 2010-11 PLCs will continue to focus on:

1. Identifying the essential learning outcomes for all students
2. Creating/implementing common assessments to measure essential learning
3. Using data to inform instructional decisions
4. Implementing systematic interventions and enrichments to support student learning

If you have any questions about the 2010-11 PLC focus areas, the Balanced Assessment System/Philosophy or how Galileo can be used by your PLC to implement common assessments please contact Dr. Ildi Laczko-Kerr at ilaczko@susd.org or 480-484-6197.

Note to teachers: Professional development opportunities will begin as early as June 2010 and will be posted on My Learning Plan.