

Surveys of Enacted Curriculum

CONTENT & INSTRUCTION IN FOCUS

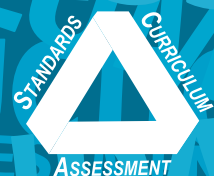
A joint project of the Council for Chief State School Officers and
the Wisconsin Center for Educational Research

CCSSO



Council of Chief State School Officers

Surveys
of
Enacted
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STANDARDS CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT

Teacher focus—how do we know our instruction is working?

The *Surveys of Enacted Curriculum* will pinpoint how instruction aligns with content by guiding you and your colleagues in answering critical questions:

1. Is what we teach truly aligned with our state standards—the content our students should learn? How do we compare to the Common Core State Standards?
2. Do we devote the right amount of instructional time to the right content?
3. Can we identify the connection between current instructional practices and low performance relative to certain standards?
4. Are our instructional practices consistent with prevailing research on effective practices?
5. What types of professional development do our we need?

What are the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum?

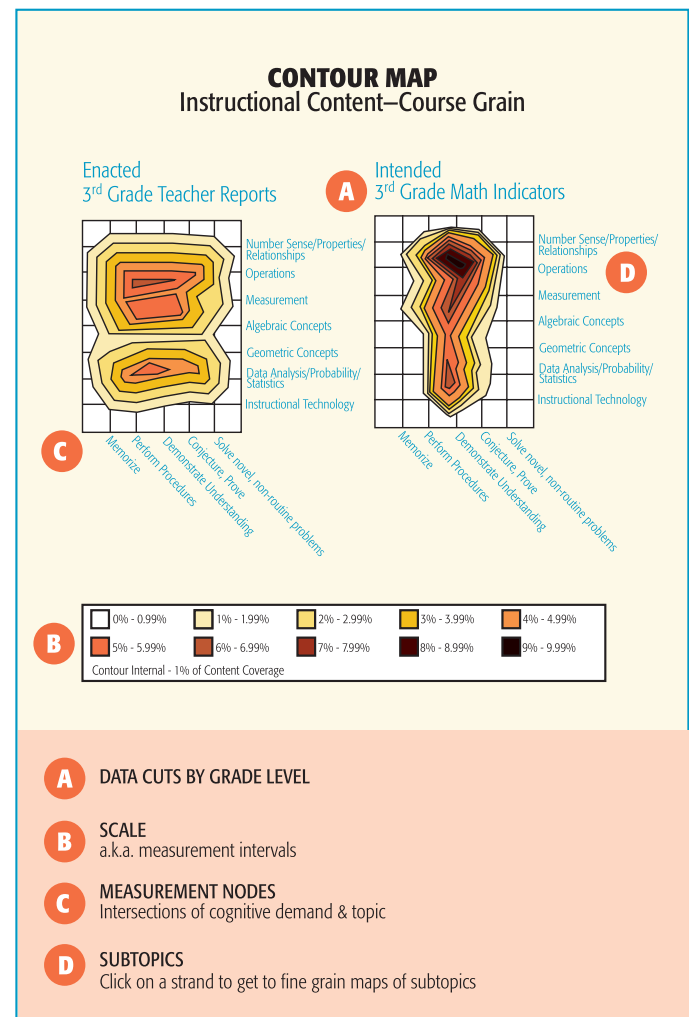
The *Surveys of Enacted Curriculum*—SEC—is a Web-based tool that provides K-12 mathematics, science, English language arts, and social studies teachers with consistent data, both on current instructional practices and the content actually being taught in their classrooms (the “how” and the “what”). Survey results are presented in clear and accessible charts and graphs to facilitate data analysis and discussion.

The SEC’s comprehensive data analysis and reporting tools help teachers, administrators, and policymakers to:

- ◆ Align classroom instruction with state standards and assessments
- ◆ Measure indicators of instruction and their relationship to student achievement
- ◆ Analyze instructional practices and teacher preparation to develop a needs assessment in low performance areas
- ◆ Plan and evaluate professional development and related staff development initiatives

State curriculum specialists, teachers, and researchers

developed the SEC and its associated reporting tools under leadership of CCSSO and Wisconsin Center for Education Research. Currently in use in 20 states and numerous schools and districts, the surveys have been field-tested in hundreds of schools and classrooms across the United States.



The *Contour Map* reads like a topographical map. The “altitude” on the *Enacted map* indicates the amount of instructional time for a given content area and level of cognitive demand based on teacher reports. The “altitude” of the *Intended map* indicates the expected instructional time based on the given mathematic indicators. White indicates little to no time dedicated to the content area at the given level of cognitive demand, while darker colors represent an increased amount of dedicated time.

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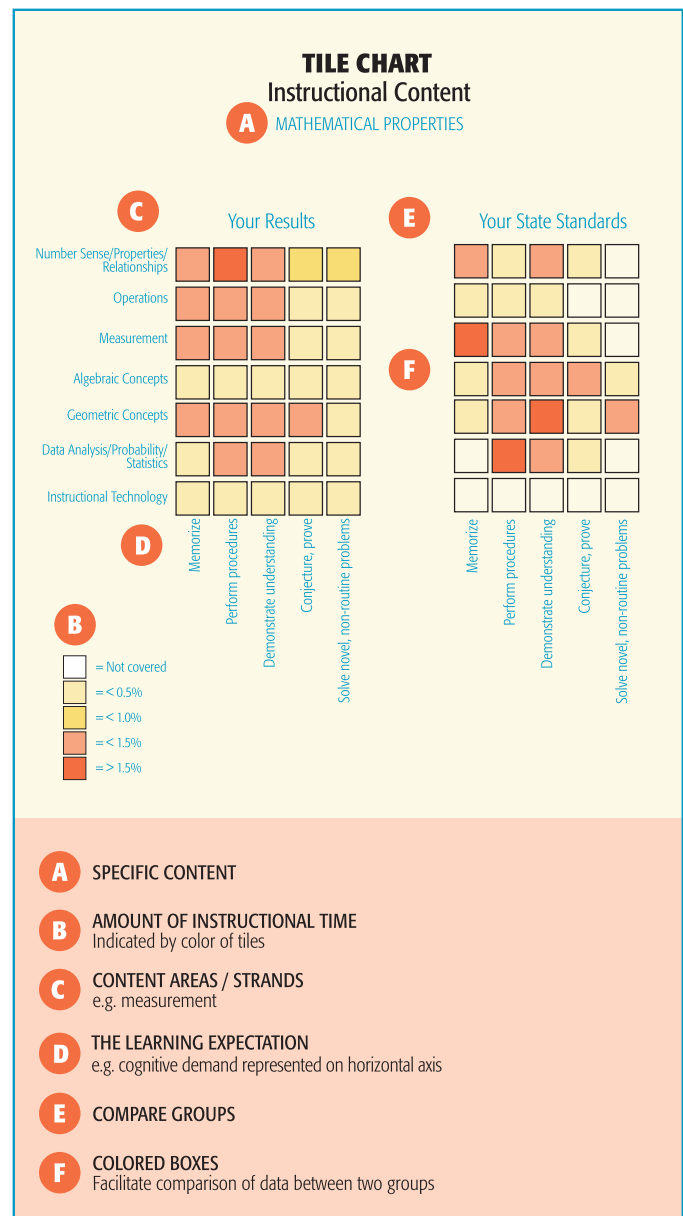
What is unique about the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum?

- ◆ The surveys are brief and simple to answer.
- ◆ Teachers receive immediate feedback upon survey completion.
- ◆ Survey reports provide visual presentations of data in easy-to-understand formats.
- ◆ Data reports can start conversations between teachers and administrators about the alignment of instructional content to state standards and how the data relates to student achievement in the broader context of school improvement goals.
- ◆ The SEC's reasonable price (\$15 per participant) allows schools and districts to involve a large number of teachers in the process, resulting in a complete picture of instruction in all classrooms.

How will this work at your school?

- ◆ Teachers log in online to access the survey.
- ◆ Teachers only need to spend about 90 minutes to complete the survey and may do so in non-consecutive sessions.
- ◆ Individual teachers may view their own responses online immediately after taking the survey—and individual responses are confidential.
- ◆ After at least three teachers have completed the SEC, school teams can view aggregate data in graphic form.
- ◆ Data are not for teacher accountability or evaluating individuals—teacher survey responses are not reported to administrators.
- ◆ To tryout the web-based survey, go to www.SEOnline.org

Professional assistance in separate workshops before, during, and after administration to help districts interpret and use their data most effectively is available.



The **Tile Chart** is two-dimensional matrix where curriculum is defined by the intersection of content/topic and the level of cognitive demand. The amount of instructional time dedicated to each mathematics topic area and cognitive expectation based on teacher reports (left chart) is displayed in comparison to state standards (right chart). The deeper and darker the color, the more emphasis and/or time spent instructing in that area.

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What will the data uncover?

The SEC helps schools compare and contrast their own instruction with state content standards and assessments (both topics taught and cognitive expectations).

The data will also reveal:

- ◆ The amount of time teachers spent on specific activities by grade level and school
- ◆ A breakdown of the amount of time teachers spent instructing on different strands of a content standard
- ◆ The relationship between time and depth of instruction on strands within a standard compared to the standards measured on a benchmark assessment

Data feedback guides teachers and administrators to better allocate their instructional time for a given standard and clarifies exactly what content within the standard demands additional instructional focus.

After you receive and interpret the survey data, what's next?

Properly used, your SEC data will be a catalyst for collegial conversations about instructional change and reflective practice.

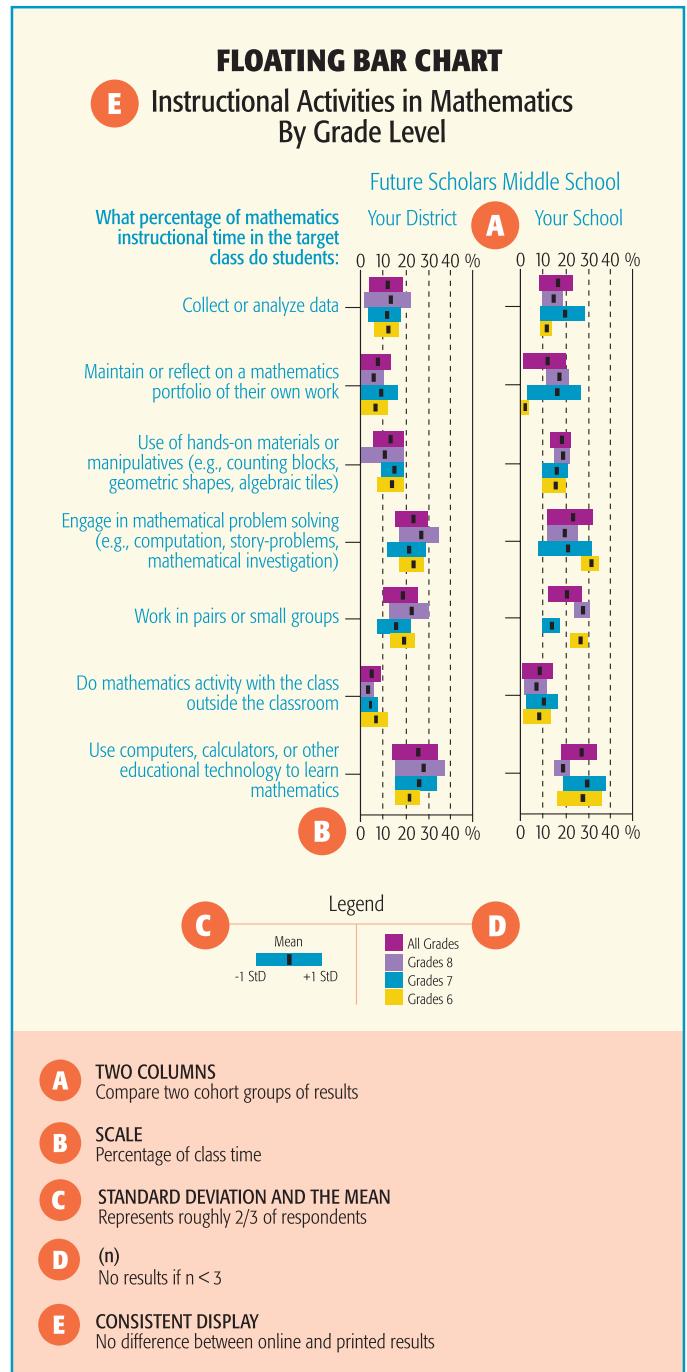
A professional development team can facilitate that conversation by helping you identify effective instructional, curricular, and assessment strategies for your school or district.

CCSSO has partnered with a number of organizations and independent consultants to create a Professional Development Team that provides training and technical assistance to support SEC projects. All members of the team have expertise to lead SEC workshops, help states plan SEC workshops or train the folks who will be leading your SEC workshops. Workshop topics have included Introduction to SEC, Orientation for Survey Takers, Analysis of SEC Data Results, and Use of SEC Data to Evaluate MSP grant projects. Technical support has included planning your SEC project, analyzing your data, marketing your project, writing project evaluation reports, communicating with your stakeholders, and any other topic that collaborative members identify as a need for implementing their SEC project.

Please contact us so that we may discuss how the SEC can bring real improvement to your school or district.



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The Floating Bar Chart shows survey results for the main types of instructional practices in mathematics. Data is displayed in two columns comparing two cohort groups of results. The results show the percent of time reported for each type of practice for teachers by district and school. This graphic approach allows teachers or administrators to quickly see the degree to which multiple practices are present and vary among teachers and classrooms.