Achieve

HOW HAVE DISTRICTS USED THE PROCESS?

NORTH THURSTON, WA

"[T]rust the tools that Achieve has developed. I believe we learned a great deal from the process (e.g. the problem is more at the elementary level than secondary) and we have built trust and knowledge with our staff who participated with us.
I have been wanting to do this work for the three years I have been at the district but just wasn't sure how to go about it. This is very timely and well worth the effort and time."

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Eliminated the Stepping Stones Quarterly Math Assessment in grades K–5, saving between 12 and 15 hours in each grade K–5

- Postponed curriculum-based kindergarten mathematics and reading assessments until other initial assessments are complete, saving 4.5 hours in September and October of kindergarten

URBANA, IL

"We discovered that we had major disconnects between purpose and use of many measures across our system, and something we are hoping to avoid in the future by providing ongoing professional development and opportunities to collaborate across grade levels and buildings.
By careful and purposeful examination of our district's assessment practices as a system, we were able to see clearly where we were 'data-heavy and decision-poor' and to thoughtfully consider how we might better serve our students, their families, and our teachers through the informed use of an accurate, meaningful assessment process."

RESULT HIGHLIGHT:

- Streamlined early literacy assessments and developed communication and professional development plans and an implementation timeline for the recommendations

To address nationwide concerns about overtesting, Achieve developed the *Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts*, which can be used by education leaders to make decisions about the appropriate amount of testing and to be more transparent with parents about assessments in schools. Since its launch in 2014, the tool has been used by over 100 districts to evaluate their assessment strategy and ensure that only the best and most useful tests are used, impacting over [1 million] students. The tool has helped district leaders to open a conversation among educators and the broader community that directly addresses the amount of testing and points the way toward a more coherent, educationally sound approach to assessment.

For more information, visit www.achieve.org/ assessmentinventory.

BENSENVILLE, IL

"In 2014/2015, the Assessment Inventory process allowed us to dive more deeply into our goal of achieving a balanced assessment system and assessment literacy. The process allowed us to get more stakeholders, such as parents and school board members involved. It also made certain that all of the tests administered were of value to students, parents, and teachers and to streamline the amount of testing being administered."

RESULT HIGHLIGHT:

- Discontinued use of NWEA MAP based on recommendations of the assessment inventory

WEST AURORA, IL

"The Assessment Inventory has changed the focus of our conversations, provided focus for professional development, and improved our school improvement process."

"In addition to having the right assessments, we need to ensure that stakeholders have the assessment literacy to utilize them to their full potential and be able to effectively communicate the results to students, parents and administrators."

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Identified two assessments to eliminate — Cognitive Abilities Test (COGAT), a gifted assessment, in 4th grade and iStation, a bilingual assessment

- Made Fountas and Pinnell, an early literacy assessment, optional

UNITY POINT, IL

"Developing an assessment inventory is a necessary process for every school district."

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Determined that the district lacked a way to communicate the assessment process with parents and community members; using the Assessment Inventory information, developed an assessment handbook for the district that outlines the different types of assessments, the information provided by these assessments, and timelines attached to each assessment

- Created specific grade-level handouts, per teacher requests, to provide to parents explaining the assessments given to their children.

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