

Section C Alternative Assessments

This subgroup focused on the non-survey assessments including reflective practice instruments, performance tasks, observations, and student and teacher portfolios. The committee understood that if you need to report data for large numbers of teachers, such as statewide, then the survey was the most cost-effective and most likely to be able to completed statewide. Members of the subgroup have long used self-report surveys to collect data in their states and were eager to have options that went beyond such surveys. There was a deep concern that there needed to be methods for teachers and administrators to have access to in-depth tools that could help them improve their practice through professional development that would have an impact in the classroom. Examples and models of these different approaches are listed in Section A.

Models and Examples

Discussions in the subgroup centered on the merits, purposes, and implementation processes for performance-based assessments and teacher portfolios. The following link provides an example of one type of alternative assessment. It involves a teacher analyzing the performance of another teacher, through examining videotape, and then describing alternative methods of performance. This type of instrument would not stand alone, but would be part of a broader set of instruments that would direct the teacher to other resources to use to improve their teaching. The group determined that it would be useful to develop a sample performance task assessment to demonstrate the process and potential of such an assessment. Please go to <http://www.setda.org/resources/331.pdf> to view a sample performance assessment developed by this Work Group.

Idaho has developed and implemented a portfolio assessment and performance assessment for teachers. Teachers are required to take a traditional assessment or participate in the portfolio or performance options. The following information provides an overview of Idaho’s programs.

	Idaho Performance Assessment	Idaho Portfolio Assessment
Purpose	Assess two levels of technology competency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Use • Integration 	Assess two levels of technology competency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Use • Integration
Domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation skills • Word Processing • Spreadsheets • Databases • Electronic Presentations • Electronic Communication • Evaluation of Software • Troubleshooting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation skills • Word Processing • Spreadsheets • Databases • Electronic Presentations • Electronic Communication • Evaluation of Software • Troubleshooting

	Idaho Performance Assessment	Idaho Portfolio Assessment
	Skills	Skills • Student Work Samples
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Administrators • Building • District • State Department of Education • Legislature • State Board of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Administrators • Building • District • State Department of Education • Legislature • State Board of Education
# of Items	• Portfolio – 8 tasks to complete	• 8 tasks to complete
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio • Work Samples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio • Work Samples
Completion time	• 6 hours or less	• Usually a semester, but could be as little as 8 hours
Cost	\$100	\$100
Research-based	Yes	Yes
Validity	Minimal	Minimal
Reliability		
Usefulness	Yes	Yes
Utility	Yes	Yes
Longitudinal	Yes	Yes
Professional development resources	Yes	Yes
Unit of analysis	• Individual report	• Individual report
Customizable	• No Limited	• Limited
Data		
Reporting capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual report • School report • District report • State report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual report • School report • District report • State report
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional support • On-site personnel • Facilitators • Technical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional support • On-site personnel
SETDA contacts	Sherawn Merritt, ID	Sherawn Merritt, ID
Other		
Comments		