



The School-Wide Learning Commons Assessments

[Whole School Learning Commons Basics](#)

Crossing the Moat of Singular View Assessments and tests.

The School Learning Commons must also reimagine how we assess student learning. One of the frameworks that best describes where we need to go and how we “cross the moat” comes from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and considers a whole child approach. Students in today’s world need different skills, dispositions and knowledge to thrive in a quickly changing world.

It is a given that the singular view approach to assessment in the form of high stakes testing has been and continues to be antithetical to positive and creative change in education for the United States. The drain on financial resources to schools and districts to gain just a glimpse of one aspect of what students know has been enormous. And, the unintended consequences of teaching to the test has taken much of the joy out of the teaching profession.

There are a few slight narrowing of this moat by a couple of testing firms recently worth noting.

PISA:

The International test PISA has recently announced that it is broadening its scope of evaluation beyond just knowledge and into more areas of soft skills. In addition, they have branched out into various types of test question beyond just multiple choice. If you are selected to take this test as a district, check out the details.

PowerSchool:

Power School through a platform called Performance Matters offers various kinds of assessment measures that go beyond just fill in the blank or multiple choice. Teachers can create automated scoring daily exit tickets, progress monitoring, unit quizzes and benchmark assessments. The integration with the S.I.S. gradebook make this process easier. Less time grading means more time teaching and providing meaningful feedback.

In the book *We Boost Teaching and Learning*, Loertscher offers the strategy of using triangulation of evidence in order to gain a better idea about what a student knows and can do; what a group of students know and are able to do; and takes a look at organizational measures, teaching unit measures, and learner measures that help anyone judge quality. He has created a fruit market where you can consider, try, in your school, free of charge. And, its OK to pinch the tomatoes to see if a measure is just right or you should alter it for your situation, if it is a bit over ripe, just passing it by.

As a reader of this page, you will find a free digital copy.. If you find a cosmic crisp apple in the bunch, I appreciate the citation and comments are always appreciated. Throughout this book, I will remind you at various topical pages of their existence for that particular topic. Here is how to get your copy: Send an email to reader.david@gmail.com and request a free copy of *We Boost Teaching and Learning*.

Resources

Here is one teacher's tip on student self-assessment:

Edutopia (n.d.). Helping Students Track Their Learning. *Edutopia*. Retrieved from <https://www.edutopia.org/article/helping-students-track-their-learning>

Priscilla Chan Co-founder And Co-ceo (n.d.). Whole Child Approach to Education. *Chan Zuckerberg Initiative*. Retrieved from <https://chanzuckerberg.com/story/explore-the-whole-child-approach-to-education/>