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PUBLICATIONS

Title: Performance Counts: Assessment Systems that Support High-Quality Learning

Description: Author Linda Darling-Hammond

This white paper describes what a student assessment system could look like if built from the principles and best practices found in current educational research and effective educational systems in the U.S. and high-achieving nations around the world.

With this paper, the Council of Chief State School Officers seeks to illuminate and enrich the discussion around comprehensive systems of student assessment and to help lead the development of more effective ways to assess student learning. It describes existing successful assessment systems that use a variety of ways to ensure student achievement in programs in our country and in high-achieving countries around the world.

We are indebted to Linda Darling-Hammond, for developing and presenting this paper. Her experience and expertise are highly regarded. The Council is engaged in a number of conversations with the states about the nature, substance, and design of assessment consortia, and while this paper does not represent the official position of the Council, it will serve as a catalyst and resource for our ongoing conversations and planning.

We believe this paper can be a tremendous resource to states as they design new programs that will engage educators and learners in new and powerful ways. But this will not be a quick fix. This new direction rewrites the rules about assessing students from a top-down concept to a more inclusive engagement of educators and learners in the process.

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