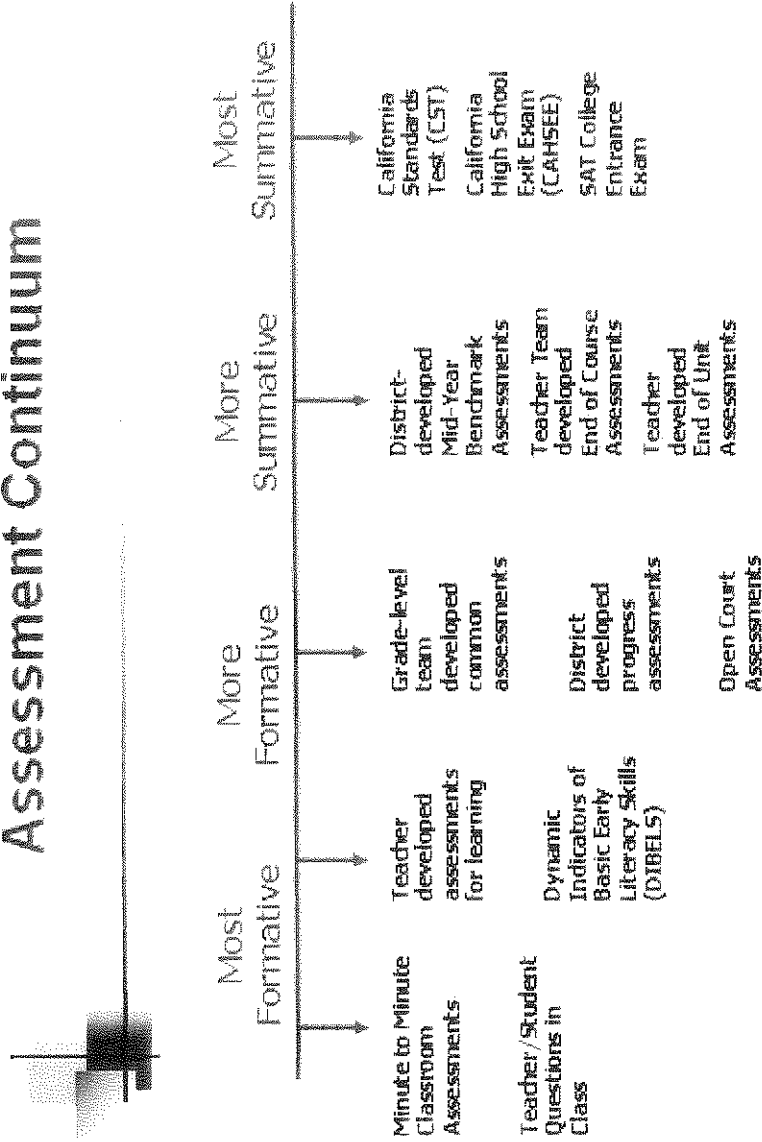


Focus on Results Assessment Continuum



Curriculum Forum Handout 4-15-2010

Assessment Terminology

Norm-Referenced: A measure in which the student's performance is compared against a larger group (e.g. IQ test). The focus is on how an individual's performance compares to the normative group, which is a representative sample of the population.

Criterion-Referenced: A measure that identifies what a student can do in relation to particular performance standards. The focus is on level of mastery (e.g. STAR).

Formative Assessment: An assessment that is administered during the learning cycle in order to inform instruction prior to leaving that period of learning (e.g. Quizzes).

Summative Assessment: An assessment that is administered at the end of the learning cycle (e.g. Finals).

The formative-summative assessment continuum: Teachers utilize a range of assessment practices from informal observation to grading of a work product or administration of a final exam. Where these assessment techniques fall along the formative-summative assessment continuum depends in large part on how the teacher utilizes the information in regards to their instructional decisions and communications with students.

Inter-Rater Reliability: Degree of agreement among raters. Grade level common assessments in writing are often rated by two raters scoring according to a common rubric.

Validity: Degree to which an assessment actually measures what it is intended to measure. One manner in which to determine validity is to examine whether there is a high degree of correlation between two or more separate measures which are intended to measure similar standards/skills (e.g. the correlation between a benchmark assessment and STAR performance).

Common Assessment: An assessment technique where a group of teachers administer the same test. The results of this type of assessment can be useful in grade level conversations about instruction among teachers and principals.

Benchmark Assessment: These assessments are administered periodically and measure a student's acquisition of essential/key standards.