



Group Activity

AN INTRODUCTION TO VALUE-ADDED PROGRESS MEASURES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

These supplementary activities can be used with a group to help process the group's learning after reviewing the *Introduction to Value-Added Progress Measures* DVD.

The following discussion questions can be used for this activity:

- Why is it important to measure both achievement and progress in schools?
- How can the information derived from value-added progress measures change teaching and learning in schools?
- What are the greatest challenges and opportunities in using value-added progress measures?
- How do we know if students have made a year's worth of progress during a school year?

Option A: Table Group Discussion

- Place questions on an overhead, PowerPoint, chalkboard or on chart paper. Ask participants to discuss each question.
- Ask the group to identify one person as the recorder. Be prepared to share responses with the large group. An alternative way to conduct this exercise is to assign one question to each table.

Option B: Carousel Brainstorming

- Write each question on a separate sheet of chart paper or poster. Provide a marker for each group.
- Divide participants into groups – one group per question. Have participants count off or divide up using any technique.
- Have participants "carousel" clockwise around to each question and record their answers on the chart or poster.
- Allow about three minutes for each group at each station. Then, ask the groups to move on to another station and add any new information/ideas to the chart or poster.
- After all groups have had the opportunity to comment on each question, ask volunteers to read what is on each chart or poster.

Responses to listen for regarding each discussion question are listed below. Other responses also may be appropriate.

Sample Responses

- Achievement measures provide an opportunity to keep focused on state and federal goals, while progress measures provide us appropriate targets along the way.
- Achievement measures show how students are performing in relation to academic standards. Progress measures report how far students have come and where they are heading.
- Achievement measures provide a sense of total student learning to date. Progress measures report what learning has occurred.

Sample Responses

- Value-added progress measures focus attention on students' individual growth.
- Value-added progress measures help educators identify strengths so that best practices can be replicated more quickly.

Sample Responses

- Challenges include the appropriate training on how to use progress measures.
- Opportunities include maximizing learning for all students, making better use of resources, increased collaboration and providing hope and encouragement.

Sample Responses

- Currently, determining if students have made appropriate levels of progress is difficult. Short-cycle assessments and daily and continuous assessments provide formative data throughout the school year.
- Once baseline data is known, teachers will be able to determine their students' progress.