

The Benefits of Value-Added Analysis for Principals

Assessing Current Practice

Expectations are increasing at all grade levels for all students. Allowing some students to succeed and others to fail is no longer acceptable. As the leader in a building, principals make decisions at the district, building, grade and classroom levels that are critical to students' ultimate success. Value-added analysis offers an objective way to measure student progress and to determine if current practices at the building, grade and classroom levels are having their intended impact.

Using value-added information, principals can:

- Measure the impact of curriculum and instructional decisions on student progress.
- Measure the impact of specific programs and initiatives on student progress.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in grade levels and in specific subjects.
- Identify students and subgroups of students at-risk for not meeting future school, district and state academic expectations.

Planning and Goal Setting

In recent years, schools have gone from a lack of information and data to being overwhelmed with information, analysis, initiatives and programs designed to help schools and students succeed at higher levels. Value-added information should be integrated into these existing school improvement efforts and not viewed as a stand-alone or separate initiative layered on top of programs already being implemented. In addition, value-added information can be used for planning and goal setting. Value-added analysis, more than any single information source, helps schools assess and leverage their strengths and identify and improve weaknesses.

Using value-added information in school planning and goal setting, principals can:

- Align resources to receive the greatest gains in student achievement.
- Set appropriate targets and short-term goals.
- Lead grade-level and subject-area teams in focused school improvement planning in areas where it is needed most.
- Focus professional development efforts on the staff members' unique individual needs.
- Identify curricular and instructional changes to meet the diverse needs of student populations.

Holding Schools Accountable for Improvement

With increasing accountability requirements at the federal, state, district and building levels, the demand for reliable and accurate information on student performance has never been greater. Value-added analysis offers an important, new metric of students' and schools' performance.



**Battelle
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Bringing clarity to
school improvement

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Using value-added information as a component of the accountability system, principals can:

- View a more complete picture of their schools' effectiveness, by having measures of progress/growth and absolute achievement.
- Make valid comparisons between school buildings, both within and across school districts.
- Identify demographically similar schools and learn from their successes.
- Help parents and the public better understand a school's unique needs and successes.

What Principals are Saying

"Value-added analysis will enable school districts, buildings, grade levels and classrooms to use real data gathered over time to make decisions necessary for improving student achievement."

Chris Keylor, Principal

"Principals can best use value-added information to see the big picture of what students need. As a principal, I share this information with my teachers so that they can incorporate it into their teaching and learning processes to help all students achieve."

Pat Reeder, Principal

"Value-added data gives us the individual, descriptive feedback on students. It tells us how effective we were with our high-achieving students, whether we maximized their learning, and it lets us know how effective we were at progressing our low-achieving students. Value-added information tells us specifically how much we were able to impact the students in our building and that is a very exciting thing for us."

Tina Thomas-Manning, Principal

To Learn More

For more information on value-added professional development opportunities and resources, contact Battelle for Kids at (614) 481-3141 and visit www.BattelleforKids.org.



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