

The Benefits of Value-Added Analysis for Superintendents

Assessing Current Practice

With increasing accountability requirements at the state and federal levels, the demand for reliable, accurate student performance information has never been greater. Value-added analysis offers an objective way to measure schools' and programs' impact on student growth.

Using value-added information, superintendents can:

- Focus the district on maximizing student learning by drawing attention to the factors that lead to improved student learning.
- Compare the growth of *same* students on a year-to-year basis, instead of comparing the achievement level of *different* groups of students each year.
- View data differently and use it, along with other information, to make decisions that improve student achievement.
- Easily access reliable information and use it to make strategic decisions.
- Build on strengths and improve on weaknesses.

Planning and Goal Setting

Value-added information should not be viewed as a stand-alone or separate initiative layered on top of programs already being implemented in the district. In addition to being used along with other district improvement initiatives, value-added information helps districts and schools assess and leverage their strengths and identify and improve weaknesses.

Using value-added information for district planning and goal setting, superintendents can:

- Engage all staff to develop school improvement plans based on areas identified by the analysis.
- Focus professional development efforts on targeted improvement areas.
- Mentor new staff and leaders with high-performing peers to improve building instruction and results.
- Focus on maximizing individual student growth at the classroom level.
- Compare progress between programs, students and student subgroups.
- Align resources in appropriate areas to maximize progress.

Holding Schools Accountable for Improvement

The most neglected aspects of any school improvement effort are the oversight and assessment of that effort.

- Are efforts aimed at improvement achieving intended results?
- Does the reallocation of resources make a difference?
- Are school-based collaborations producing the effects you want?

While value-added information is a critical tool to assess current practice, it also is an essential tool to measure the impact of change.



ANALYSIS

**Battelle
for Kids**

Bringing clarity to
school improvement

1160 Dublin Road, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 481-3141
(614) 481-8997 fax

www.BattelleforKids.org

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With value-added information, superintendents can:

- View a more complete picture of their schools' effectiveness by having measures of progress/growth and absolute achievement.
- Monitor building-level progress.
- Engage staff at all levels to consider school improvement efforts.
- Analyze trends across disaggregate groups and develop strategies to address specific weaknesses.
- Access realistic information about what to expect from students and helpful information to set appropriate targets for schools' and students' efforts.

What Superintendents are Saying

"Value-added analysis and *SOAR* have become integral components in our efforts to improve individual student achievement. Using the data from value-added analysis has had a positive impact on our educational practices throughout all grade levels. We now have a more powerful tool to accurately assess our students' progress. We believe this tool will not only help us continue achieving our excellent rating on the state report card, but also will support our efforts to help all students reach their highest levels of academic performance."

Dick Ross, Superintendent

"Value-added assessment provides our district with true measures of the job we are doing with our students. We encourage accountability; in fact, we demand it. Value-added allows an opportunity to analyze each child in our school system and provide intervention to assure that we leave no child behind. With this approach, we can get an exact diagnosis on our students and provide the academic help needed.

Wade Lucas, Superintendent

"To truly impact and improve student learning, we have to go beyond just analyzing student achievement scores to identifying progress. Value-added allows us to do that."

Amy Spicher, Assistant Superintendent

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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