

The Benefits of Value-Added Analysis for Teachers

Assessing Current Practice

Expectations are increasing at all grade levels and for all students. Allowing some students to succeed and others to fail is no longer acceptable. Teachers cannot control the level at which students enter the classroom and should not be held accountable for factors they cannot control. However, teachers do control the progress students make while they are in their classroom.

Value-added analysis offers an objective way to measure student progress and determine if current practices at the building, grade and classroom levels are having their intended impact.

Using value-added information, teachers can:

- Monitor all students' progress from low-achieving to high-achieving, helping to ensure growth opportunities for all students.
- Measure the impact of specific curriculum and instructional decisions on student progress.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in grade levels and in specific subject areas.
- Identify students at-risk of not meeting future school, district and state academic expectations.

Planning and Goal Setting

In recent years, teachers have been inundated with data. But, often the data are not particularly useful to make decisions at the grade, classroom or student levels. In combination with classroom assessments, observations and teachers' professional knowledge and experiences, value-added analysis can be a powerful tool to improve student achievement. More than any single information source, value-added analysis helps teachers assess and leverage strengths and identify and improve weaknesses at the school, grade, classroom and student levels.

By using value-added information in planning and goal setting, teachers can:

- Align and focus classroom resources to help all students achieve at higher levels.
- Differentiate instruction to meet students' diverse academic needs and learning styles.
- Focus individual professional development plans on areas of greatest need.

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 and progress 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, teachers can:

- View a more complete picture of the effectiveness of their schools and grade levels by having measures of student progress and absolute achievement.
- Make valid comparisons between school buildings, grade levels and subject areas, both within the school building and across districts.
- Identify demographically similar schools and learn from successes in various grade levels and subject areas.
- Help parents understand students' and schools' unique needs and successes.

What Teachers are Saying

"Value-added information shows progress, and that is ultimately what we want our students to make while they are in school — to progress from point A to point B. Value-added information is going to allow teachers to see whether or not their students are making the growth they need to make."

Shannon Clemons, Teacher

"Value-added provides a way to measure changes in teaching and learning so that more deliberate instruction and learning can occur."

Katie Peters-Crosby, Teacher

"Value-added reports provide a large urban district with the opportunity to share information about strengths with the community that is not evident elsewhere."

Dean Fowls, Teacher on Special Assignment

"We have no control over what achievement level students arrive in our classrooms. However, we can ensure that we move all students forward. Value-added helps us recognize student growth and is a real agent for positive change."

Nancy Russel-Fry, Teacher

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.



ANALYSIS

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