Questions for Teachers to Ask to Determine Whether an Assessment Is Effective

After reviewing a particular assessment, respond to the following questions. Then review your responses and reflect on whether you should consider making any changes to the assessments you use in class in order to more effectively meet the needs of a diverse group of students. Building administrators can use this activity at a faculty meeting to discuss the school's progress in using ongoing assessment data both as the teachers' entry point for differentiation and as a means of helping students understand and assume increasing responsibility for their success as learners.

1. Does the assessment clearly measure the learning objective that the students need to achieve?

2. Is the assessment measuring something that the students expect to be measured, or will it come as a surprise?

3. Is this the right type of assessment to use to measure this learning objective?

4. Does the assessment measure a fair representation of the components of the learning objective rather than your own favorite components?

5. Does the assessment measure the most important components of the learning objective rather than immaterial or tangential components?

6. Is the assessment appropriate for all the students who will use it?

7. Does the assessment make clear what students must do to provide a high-quality response?

8. Will the results of the assessment provide you with the information you need to determine how to refine and revise your instructional plans for the near term?

9. Will the results of the assessment provide students with the information they need to see where they are proficient and where they need to improve?

Possible Changes to Consider