

Utilize digital assessments

There are two traditional approaches to assessment in education – formative and summative. Formative assessments look to detect and correct learning deficiencies in students during the learning process. Summative assessments make judgments regarding student progress after instruction. A variety of measurement tools and methods can be used for both formative and summative assessment purposes.

Teachers are tasked daily with evaluating, reviewing, and grading formative and summative assessments. As classroom instruction has become more technology-based, the need to digitize assessment tools has become increasingly pertinent.

Utilizing digital assessments can replace the stack of papers that teachers take home to grade and are a great way for teachers to measure student progress and provide immediate feedback. It also allows teachers to adjust instruction to accommodate the specific needs of all learners. Digital assessments are student friendly and allow for students to track their own progress (Lin, 2018).

Digital assessment can be described as “...all technology-enabled assessment tasks where the design, performance, and feedback must be mediated by technologies” (“What Is Alternative Digital Assessment”, n.d.). Drost notes that “good formative assessments provide feedback, are motivating, allow for instructional adjustment, and are ongoing” (Drost, n.d.). Innovative assessment systems have given birth to gamification tools, web-based exams, and other interactive, digital tools that can be woven into today’s classroom and used for assessment.

SUMMARY

Create assessments that encourage students to think critically and allow for multiple ways to demonstrate their learning.

- Utilize technology tools for formative and summative assessments
- Gather data quickly to inform instruction and support student learning
- Create assessments that encourage students to utilize critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity



Why it matters



Decades of research on the topic of feedback have found it to be one of the most effective methods of improving student achievement (“Providing Educational Feedback,” 2016). Assessment is a way to measure learning outcomes. This provides the teacher with what students know and the effectiveness of the instruction. Digital assessment tools provide teachers with instant feedback and allow them to do individual and group assessments in a lively format (Lin, 2018). The successful implementation of digital assessment tools provides for both on-the-spot and delayed feedback and encourages student-to-student feedback (Cain, n.d.). This supports the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Educator Standards of providing timely feedback to students and informing instruction.

With traditional methods of teaching and learning being redeveloped and assessment being an element of this change, “digital assessment tools...can be used effectively for formative assessment purposes. They can provide teachers with regular and instant feedback about learners’ progress to detect and fix the learners’ mistakes and misconceptions sustainably in an interesting way” (ÖZER & ŞAD, 2019). Feedback cues the instructor to errors or weaknesses in their teaching practices and provides students with information to improve their performance.

What it looks like in practice



PRINCIPALS SEE

Students responding to assessment questions through a digital platform

Students creating products to demonstrate mastery of content using digital tools

Teachers adjusting instruction based on real-time assessment feedback

TEACHERS SEE

Students completing formative assessments using digital tools during synchronous learning

Teachers tracking and monitoring students’ progress and responses in real-time through digital assessment platforms

FAMILIES SEE

Student’s projects and teacher feedback in addition to student grades

Communication from teachers informing about their student’s online assessments



What you can try

- >> Use digital assessment tools to gamify the answers, give instant feedback, track progress, and create survey-based assessments (Lin, 2018). Tools built within digital applications such as Mastery Connect, Edulastic, and i-Ready provide technology-enhanced assessments from formative to formal.
- >> Level up assessment in a fun and engaging way by using *Kahoot!*. According to Lin (2018), “It is one of the most popular tools for digital assessments in the world of tech tools.” The *Kahoot!* assessment technologies allow a teacher to collect valuable student feedback that can be acted on immediately. Instead of using a worksheet, teachers can create a Kahoot to review content and for test practice.
- >> Create real-time interactive Nearpod activities such as drag and drop, draw it, open-ended question, quiz, poll, collaborate board, fill in the blanks, matching pairs, and time to climb. Teachers can immediately see student responses and give feedback as they are presenting in Nearpod. After a lesson, teachers can review the session in the Reports tab. This makes the data easy to break down and see exactly where students are in their progress to mastery.
- >> Find and create free gamified quizzes and interactive lessons using Quizizz. Quizizz is a powerful student engagement and assessment tool that can be linked to any learning management system.

REFERENCES

- Cain, T. (n.d.). *Selecting and Using the Appropriate Digital Assessment Tools for Feedback*. Better Lesson. https://betterlesson.com/strategy/561/selecting-and-using-the-appropriate-digital-assessment-tools-for-feedback?from=instructional_strategies_details
- Drost, B. (n.d.). *8 Digital Formative Assessment Tools to Improve Motivation*. AMLE. <https://www.amle.org/8-digital-formative-assessment-tools-to-improve-motivation/>
- Lin, N. (2018, March 3). *Digital Assessment Tools: What Is Their Impact On A Teacher’s Work?* ELearning Industry. <https://elearningindustry.com/digital-assessment-tools-impact-teachers-work>
- Özer, N., & ŞAd, S. N. (2019). Using Kahoot! as a Gamified Formative Assessment Tool: A case study. *International Journal of Academic Research in Education*, 5(1), 43-57. DOI:10.17985/ijare.645584
- Providing Educational Feedback*. (2016). Pearson Higher Education Services. Published. <https://www.pearson.com/content/dam/one-dot-com/one-dot-com/us/en/pearson-ed/downloads/Feedback.pdf>
- What is Alternative Digital Assessment*. (n.d.). IGI Global. <https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/conceptual-framework-assessment-higher-education/33542>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

5 Guidelines For Developing Good Online Assessments

Discusses five guidelines for developing assessments that are fair, reliable, transparent, and valid.

<https://elearningindustry.com/developing-good-online-assessments-guidelines>

ISTE Standards The ISTE Standards provide competencies for learning, teaching and leading in the digital age, providing a comprehensive roadmap for the effective use of technology in schools worldwide.

<https://www.iste.org/iste-standards>

The Value of Formative Assessment

Provides an overview of research behind the positive impacts of consistent formative assessment and best practices for implementing these assessments.

<https://nearpod.com/blog/the-value-of-formative-assessment/>

