

Student Assessment

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. This is accomplished when students and teachers are able to receive ongoing feedback from a variety of assessment tools. These tools are listed below.

Assessment FOR Learning is the use of a task or an activity to determine student progress *during* a unit of instruction. The teacher uses the assessment information to align classroom instruction to improve learning and students are given valuable feedback.

Assessment OF Learning is the use of a task or activity at the *end* of a unit of instruction to measure, record and report on a student's level of achievement and is designed to provide evidence of achievement to parents, students, and other educators. This familiar type of assessment is known as summative.

Assessment AS Learning is the use of a task or an activity to allow students the opportunity to use assessment to further their own learning. *Ongoing* self and peer assessments allow students to identify their areas of learning strength and need which leads them to set learning goals and to advocate for their own learning.

The purpose of student assessment has changed since most of us have attended elementary school. Being aware of these changes allows us to understand what is going on in our children's classrooms and why.