

LEADS POLICY on STUDENT ASSESSMENT

A. CONTEXT

1. LEADS is committed to the enhancement of student learning.- LEADS Planning document.
2. LEADS supports student assessment as an integral component of the School ^{Plus}: School Improvement Initiative.
3. LEADS believes that the Provincial Education System's capacity to improve learning outcomes and to deliver high quality learning opportunities is best realized through the achievement of the goals articulated in "Ensuring the Well Being and Educational Success of Saskatchewan's Children and Youth"- Role of the School Task Force Final Report.

B. GOALS

1. LEADS strongly believes that the primary purpose of student assessment must be to improve learning.
2. LEADS supports and promotes sound assessment practices which:
 - a. provide students and parents with information about their learning
 - b. provide teachers with information about student learning which can inform instructional decision making
 - c. provide a Board of Education and its electors with information regarding the effectiveness of its programs
3. Further LEADS believes that:
 - a. assessment information must lead to improvement for the individual learner and for the education system as a whole
 - b. students should be assessed on publicly acknowledged curriculum objectives
 - c. assessment processes, instruments and reports must be valid, fair and reliable
 - d. good assessment practice is characterized as purposeful, balanced and comprehensive
 - e. the purpose of any assessment must be clear
 - f. assessment practices should reflect appropriate opportunities to learn and a full scope of learning
 - g. assessment should be conducted in a manner consistent with the "Principles for Fair Student Assessment Practices for Education in Canada"

C. FOCUS

1. Assessment for learning should be grounded on research based principles which will guide classroom practice. LEADS believes that assessment for learning:
 - a. is part of effective planning
 - b. focuses on how students learn
 - c. is central to classroom practice
 - d. is a key professional skill
 - e. has an emotional impact
 - f. affects learner motivation
 - g. promotes commitment to learning goals and assessment criteria
 - h. encourages self assessment
 - i. recognizes all achievements
2. LEADS believes that the quality of assessment practices is enhanced through assessment literacy.
3. LEADS believes that instruction in how students learn and how learning can be assessed should be a major component of teacher pre-service and professional development programs.
4. LEADS believes that accountability in assessment involves the use of assessment information along with other knowledge to make judgments about student learning and to develop improvement plans.
5. LEADS members can promote accountable leadership by ensuring:
 - a. best possible practices are used
 - b. measures to improve are in place
 - c. tools to evaluate practices are in use
 - d. resources are channeled to support objectives
 - e. resources are effectively deployed
6. LEADS believes large scale assessments must give all students an opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do. Instruments must be performance and standards based.

D. COMMUNICATION, REPORTING and USE

1. LEADS believes that assessment of learning provides evidence of achievement for public reporting.
2. LEADS believes that assessment for learning serves to enhance student learning.
3. LEADS members as educational leaders are responsible for:
 - a. interpreting assessment results for different audiences
 - b. acting on results in a meaningful and responsible manner
 - c. using information constructively and proactively
 - d. ensuring that results are used only for the purpose for which they were intended
 - e. reporting in a transparent manner
4. LEADS promotes the development of school division policies regarding the use of student assessment information.

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