

July 2021 REL Corner: Assessment Practices and Grading Policies to Support Student Success

[Learn about REL Appalachia and its work](#), and dive into these resources from across the REL program that support educators and education leaders in learning more about assessment practices and grading policies to support student success.

- [Implementing High-Quality Performance Assessments in Science Project](#). This project page from REL Appalachia features a collection of resources such as blogs, videos, archived webinars, and coaching materials (with handouts and participant workbooks) developed in partnership with Virginia educators to support the implementation of performance assessments in middle school science classrooms. Materials can be adapted for other subject areas and local contexts.
- [A Pivot to Performance Assessments](#). This blog post from REL Appalachia provides an overview of performance assessments, an alternative to standard assessments that include flexible and engaging options to assess and meet students' needs. The blog post includes a collection of adaptable resources based on a partnership with Virginia educators, as well as other resources for ongoing learning to support the implementation of performance assessments locally.
- [Every Child Shines: Using Formative Assessment to Reflect on Children's Individual Knowledge and Skills](#). This video from REL Southwest provides an introduction to formative assessment in PreK–Kindergarten classrooms, as well as best practices and uses of formative assessment data at the classroom, local, and state levels.
- [Formative Assessments in Early Childhood Education](#). This blog post from REL Southwest highlights the experience of an Oklahoma educator using formative assessment in a PreK classroom, including implementation of best practices and data use strategies that can be adapted for use in your local context.

- [Formative Assessment and Elementary School Student Academic Achievement: A Review of the Evidence](#). This publication from REL Central includes a systematic review of 22 rigorous studies on the effectiveness of formative assessment interventions among elementary students. Educators can use these findings to assess applicability of formative assessment interventions in their settings.
- [Formative Assessment and Self-Regulated Learning](#). This webinar from REL West addresses the association between formative assessment and self-regulated learning, based on a REL West study that analyzed survey results from teachers and students in three Arizona school districts. The webinar provides an overview of the study's findings and shares an example of how one participating Arizona school district has promoted key practices featured in the study.
- [Supporting Students' Independent Learning with Self-Assessment Strategies](#). This infographic from REL West includes sample questions from What Works Clearinghouse Practices Guides teachers can use with students in grades K–8 to support their reflection on their learning as they read, write, and problem solve.
- [Standards-Based Grading with Alternative Education or Disconnected Learners in Grades 6–12](#). This Ask A REL response from REL Midwest includes research reports and descriptive articles on the association between standards-based grading policies and the academic achievement of disconnected youth in grades 6–12.
- [High School Instructor Grading Policies](#). This Ask A REL response from REL West shares research reports and descriptive articles on high school instructor grading policies and best practices to ensure that grades reflect content mastery.
- [What Does the Research Say About Project-Based Learning \(PBL\) and Performance Tasks for Improving and Assessing Student Learning in Secondary School English Language Arts \(ELA\) and Social Studies Classes?](#) This Ask A REL response from REL Appalachia includes research reports and descriptive articles on assessing student learning in secondary ELA and social studies classes through PBL tasks and performance assessments.
- [How Does Proficiency-Based Grading and Reporting Impact Students?](#) This Ask A REL response from REL Northeast and Islands provides research reports and descriptive articles on measuring student progress and learning in K–12 competency based-education models.