

# Roles of Local Assessments in State Accountability Systems

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# Local and State Assessments

- State assessments
- Local assessments
  - “Local” content standards: individualized for student/occasion to common district assessment
  - Locally developed, selected, administered, scored, analyzed, reported, QC'd
  - Used for “local” purposes: instruction, grading, placement, promotion/graduation decisions
- Local assessments for state purposes, by state criteria



# Why Use Local Assessments

- Validity
- Instructional consequences
- Reliability
- Operational advantages
  - Efficiencies, costs, time, buy-in, flexibility, possible assessment tasks (extensive, resource-rich, dynamic, sequentially modified, etc.)
- Why NOT to use local assessments...



# How Local Assessments Are Used in State Accountability

- A. Providing “scores of record” for state school accountability
- B. Providing evidence for student stakes (graduation, promotion, endorsement) under state guidelines in addition to traditional measures
- C. Corroborating or challenging state assessment results for school accountability
- D. Corroborating or challenging state assessment results for graduation/promotion
- E. Fostering assessment literacy



# Some States' Use of Local Assessments

<p>A – Evidence used in <i>school</i> accountability</p>	<p>KY writing portfolios; <b>NE NCLB</b>; ME Local accy system</p>
<p>B – Evidence used in <i>student</i> accountability</p>	<p>OR CIM; RI high school diploma; <b>WY BOE</b>; GA scholarships; KY college placement</p>
<p>C – Challenge <i>school</i> accountability</p>	<p>VT NCLB appeals; KY portfolio audits</p>
<p>D – Challenge <i>student</i> accountability</p>	<p><b>LA promotion appeals evidence</b>; MA graduation appeals evidence</p>
<p>E – Foster learning, assessment literacy</p>	<p>KY portfolio audits; WA local assessment system; GA local prep; <b>WY comprehensive assessment system</b></p>



# Quality Control Issues and Local Assessments

## ■ Validity

- Fairness (access/opportunity)
- Alignment to worthy standards; accurately assess
- Sampling
  - Representation (content, depth, scope)
  - Sufficiency
- Aggregation and decision rules
- Administration quality and consistency

## ■ Reliability (and validity)

- Scoring consistency over occasions, persons, years
- Policy consistency in local jurisdictions
- Policy consistency over time



# Quality Control Approaches for Local Assessments

- State establishes criteria, locals develop to criteria
- Locals establish and apply QC procedures (e.g., alignment)
- State reviews locals' procedures and/or evidence
- State audits locals' (assertions, evidence) (as part of accreditation, regularly scheduled, upon need, etc.)
- State conducts/contracts special studies
- Other



# Session Outline

- a) What is the role of local assessments in the state system? and
- b) How are quality control issues (validity and alignment, reliability, and fairness) handled?

- Sue Brookhart – literature, NE STARS evaluation
- Pat Roschewski - NE
- Annette Bohling - WY
- Scott Norton - LA
- Jim Popham – Response
- Brian Gong – Moderate discussion with audience





# For more information:

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P.S. See website for information on our upcoming RILS conference on high school assessment and accountability, Sept. 29-30, 2005

