

Reclaiming Assessment:

A Better Alternative to the Accountability Agenda

Not cool things

No Child Left Behind
Privatization
Channel One
American Enterprise Institute
The Heritage Foundation
Chester Finn's Fordham Foundation
Phyllis Shlafly's Eagle Forum
The Business Roundtable
Champaign for America's Children

Cool things

Nebraska
STARS
Me
You
Teachers
Dewey
Engagement Learning
Chris W. Gallagher (author)

Accountability (Evil / *transaction*) vs **Engagement** (Good / *interaction*)

Involving School Reform

Business-modal approach	Democratic model
School reform	School improvement
Teachers as impediments to reform	Teaches as leaders of school improvement
One-way relationships	Mutual relationships
Student achievement	Student learning
Test based	Assessment informed
Standardization	Standards
Stern-father morality	Shared-responsibility ethic
Transaction	Interaction
Top-down	Bottom-up (or inside out)
Exerts control	Builds capacity
High stakes	High impact
Unearned distrust	Earned trust
Competition	Collaboration
Compliance	Commitment
Assessment of learning (only)	Assessment <i>for</i> learning (also)
Demands simplicity	Embraces complexity

Involving Assessment

Threat	Opportunity
Top-down policy tool	Bottom-up
High stakes	Instructional tool
Event-based	High impact
Students subjected	On-going, embedded
Assessment-driven instruction	Students involved
	Instruction-driven instruction

Involving Professional Development

Individual	Collaborative
Content based	Comprehensive
Event oriented	Ongoing
Compliance focus	Commitment focus
Data driven	Data informed
One size fits all	Context sensitive
"Best Practices" focus	Embedded in schools
Sit 'n' git	Interactive, participatory
Outside experts	Teachers teaching teachers

Involving School-Community Relationships

Unearned distrust	Earned trust
Investment audit	Conversation
Transaction	Interaction
Public relations	Public involvement
Placelessness	Place consciousness
Competition	Continuous improvement
Infrequent	Ongoing



Nebraska Is Super Cool

(and more liberal than you think)

Other States are totally stupid, and Nebraska is awesome because it uses the School-based Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System (STARS), which totally beats the WASL. STARS rocks because it:

- is a system of local assessments, not a state test.
- requires multiple measures of student performance.
- requires documentation of assessment quality.
- uses reflective classroom-based assessments (CBA) for state reporting.
- includes NO high-state tests.
- sponsors connections.
- promotes teacher involvement and professional growth
- is student-focused
- is inclusive
- is a validation of the teaching professional
- inspires ownership and pride in teachers

STARS monitors Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) through District Assessment Portfolios (DAPs) which must meet the Six Quality Criteria (QCs):

1. Assessments align to state or local standards
2. Students have an opportunity to learn the content
3. Assessments are free from bias or offensive language
4. The level is developmentally appropriate for students
5. There is consistency in scoring
6. The Mastery levels are appropriate to subject and grade