# Connecticut Council for Education Reform 

# Best Practices Forum <br> Breakout Session: Turning Data* into Action <br> *Cognitive and Non-Cognitive 

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## What "Data into Action" Measures?

Cognitive Measures
Reading/ELA and Math
Non-Cognitive Measures CCSS *

- Growth Mindset
- Intrinsic Motivation
- Grit/Perseverance
- Sense of Belonging ... safety ... aggression ...
* Measuring $21^{\text {st }}$ Century Competencies, Guidance for Educators. Rand (2013).


## Cognitive Measures ... Reporting Actionable Data

## Cognitive Diagnostic Assessments*

- Expected to be included in PARCC and SBAC by 2018
- Fine grain level and pattern of errors


## Meriden District Assessments (2004 to present)

- Designed for teachers and students to help instruction
- Report specific errors and pattern of errors
- Items used for instruction
- Online
* Test Theory for a New Generation of Tests, Edited by Frederiksen, N., Mislevy, F. J., Bejan, I. I., (1993).

Cognitive Diagnostic Assessment for Education. Editing by Leighton, J. P., Gierl, M. J. (2007).
The Future of Assessment. Editing by Dwyer, C. A., (2008).

## The Fine Grain Level and Error Description in Math

Teachers are good at fixing errors ... so identify the errors ...

A student is asked to calculate ...

$$
\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{4}=\begin{array}{llll} 
& \begin{array}{ll}
\text { A } & 1 / 6 \\
\text { (error description) } \\
\text { B } & 2 / 4 \\
\text { (error description) } \\
\text { C } & 2 / 6
\end{array} \text { (error description) } \\
\text { D } & 3 / 4 & \\
\text { E } & 1 / 8 \text { (error description) }
\end{array}
$$

An error description is written for each distractor/misconception

- correct responses are ignored


## The Fine Grain Level and Error Description in Math

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\mathrm{A} & 1 / 6 & \\
\mathrm{~B} & 2 / 4 & \\
\mathrm{C} & 2 / 6 & \text { Error description } \\
\mathrm{D} & 3 / 4 & \\
\mathrm{E} & 1 / 8 &
\end{array}
$$



If the student selected "C", then the error description to the teacher is the student is "adding both numerator and denominator".

- Actionable data

There are over 1,000 error descriptions embedded in this software.

## Meriden District Assessments Individual Math Reports



Historical database is accessible to teachers.

Meriden District Assessments Math Report(s): What to do with this class? especially Kevin


## Error Descriptions in Reading Comprehension

Types of inefficient reading behaviors identified during testing

| ERROR | ERROR DESCRIPTION |
| :--- | :--- |
| No-Support (answer grabbing) | This answer has no support in the <br> passage, but sounds good if you didn't <br> read the passage |
| Text Matching (look for a literal answer and <br> did not re-read) | Student selects a literal answer from <br> the text - recognizable word |
| Related (good but not the "BEST" = "tricky") | Good answer but not the "best" answer <br> for this question |
| Opposite | The opposite of the correct answer |
| Anaphoric Pronoun Referent | Mis-identifies the pronoun to <br> appropriate noun in the passage |
| Skipped Items |  |

## Text Matching Did Not "Look Back" and <br> No Support Answer Grabbing Foils <br> 58 Original Passages



The purpose is not to get the right answer, but to discuss the errors and have the student improve his/her thinking and foster good reading behaviors.

## The Carefully Crafted ... Related Foil: requires students to evaluate subtle differences between foils

| Exhibit 2 (Teacher Copy) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CLIMBING HIGH |  |  |
| Which statement BEST describes what the passage is MOSTLY about? |  |  |
| Related | A. Annie was a woman who took many risks. | (she did take risks) |
| Best Answer | B. Annie was a person who wasn't afraid to follow her dreams. | (implied, best answer) |
| Related | C. Women can be mountain climbers. | (she did) |
| Text Matching | D. Most mountains can be climbed. | (text matching) |
| Text Matching | E. Most people never climb mountains. | (text matching) |

The purpose is not to get the right answer, but to discuss the errors and have the student improve his/her thinking and foster good reading behaviors.

## Meriden District Assessments Classroom Reading Report (2 of 7)

MDA Reading Reports

What pattern of reading
errors is Mary making?


## Meriden District Assessments Individual Reading Report (7 of 7)

What inefficient reading behavior is Mary demonstrating?


## Meriden District Assessments Classroom Reading Report (3 of 7)

## MDA Reading Reports

| Home | " |
| :---: | :---: |
| Printable Probes | " |
| Critical Reading Exercises | " |
| Key Concepts | * |
| CCSS-Math | " |
| Overall Summary | " |
| Reading Summary | " |
| Passage 1 | " |
| Passage 2 | " |
| Passage 3 | " |
| Open Ended Responses | " |
| Key: |  |
| d Correct Answer |  |
| Related Answer |  |
| (-) Text Matching |  |
| - Answer Grabbing |  |
| () Opposite |  |
| ® Skipped |  |
| (3) View Question |  |

Mouse-over an icon to the right to see its meaning


## These Cognitive Online Tools: Free to LEAs

- Seen as helping to increase student achievement in Meriden
- Math (grades 2-9)
- Reading (grades 2-10)

Both will need some revision over next 2-3 years (new SBAC item formats)

- Form a working group of LEAs to pilot and revise these diagnostic assessments together* with measurement specialists and access to psychometric software (e.g. IBM SPSS $v 22$ ).
* Measuring $21^{\text {st }}$ Century Competencies, Guidance for Educators. Rand (2013).


## Two Non-Cognitive Measures ... Reporting Actionable Data

1) Social-emotional health and development constructs ... embedded within a climate survey (well established); and
2) Measure of intrinsic motivation and perseverance ... embedded in a "Getting to Know You" survey (developing).

## Non-Cognitive Measure \#1: Meriden's School Climate Survey

- Based on National School Climate Standards
- Scientifically validated and reliable
- LEA level Exploratory Factor Analysis and
- Independent university researcher Confirmatory Factor Analysis
- Manuscript accepted 2014: School Psychology Quarterly (APA).
- Confidential online survey
- Based on student $\log$ in (ID), we know the student.

Seven Factor Model (sense of belonging and student aggression)

1. Teachers Motivate \& Care
2. Mean to Me (Safety)
3. Respect Differences
4. Parent Values School
5. Parental Support
6. Caring Friends
7. Mean to Others (Aggression)


Meriden tracks social-emotional development by student over time

- Sense of belonging to school ... actionable data
- Teachers care/motivate
- Friends
- Student aggression ... actionable data
- Pre-bullying behaviors (students do report via computer)
- Trigger e-mails (students in social emotional crisis)


When a student responds with $\mathrm{a}^{" 4 "}$ or " " $^{\prime \prime}$ on either of these two items, a trigger e-mail* is immediately sent to:

- School Psychologists
- School Social Workers
- School Administrators
- Office of Research and Evaluation


## LEA Assessment Theme of Climate Surveys:

Design assessments and programming to produce diagnostic, and actionable data that practitioners can use to address each individual student's needs.

## Confidential and Responsive Online School Climate Survey

The following student quotes are samples of student "trigger e-mails". They deal with suicide, harm, threats, relational and racial issues. The underlined segments, added by the presenter, align with national qualitative research findings.

| Case 1 |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Hispanic, male, grade 7, Free Lunch, not special <br> education, not ELL, Language exposed to Spanish <br> but English Dominant, Basic Math, Basic Reading | there are some people who call me names and ... people start rumors about me that i dont like <br> sometimes i want to die and kill myself before the next day. i feel like everyone hates me and <br> for no reason. ive sometimes been nice but when they bring up the rumor i say realy bad <br> things to keep them away ... one day i was thrown a note saying im \#\#\#. and it was my by <br> bestfriend ... ilost the only thing that i can trust. i was alone for a long time. if this is un <br> healthy then pleace help me ... |
| Case 2 | At school some people dont like me so they bully me and pick on me. I feel horrible and I feel <br> like I want to stay at home doing nothing than get bullyed at school. |
| White, male, grade 5, Pay Lunch, not special <br> education, not ELL, Language is English, Goal <br> Math, Proficient Reading. |  |
| Case 3 | evrey day steve and his little bro beats me up |
| Hispanic, male, grade 4, Free Lunch, not special <br> education, not ELL, Language is English, Goal <br> Math, Goal Reading |  |

## Responsive Online School Climate <br> Survey for Students

| Case 4 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| White, Female, grade 5, Free Lunch, not special education, not ELL, Language is English, Basic Math, Proficient Reading | some kids threten me by telling me they will punch me if i dont give them my stuff |
| Case 5 |  |
| Hispanic, female, grade 8, Free Lunch, not special education, not ELL, Language exposed to Spanish but English Dominant, Basic Math, Basic Reading | they make threats about how there going to fight me after school then i always have to keep looking overmy shoulder. the make fun of my red hair, and my race also they say mean thing like they spread rumer about me that are not true and most of the kids belive that they are true and that make me mad when i have no one to talk to about the things happening to me |
| Case 6 |  |
| Hispanic, female, grade 7, Free Lunch, not special education, not ELL, <br> Language is English, Below Basic Math, Below Basic Reading | in the past of the school year people were spreading rumors abut me and like what do i do to them. like i be crying cause i changed and people are talking behide my back like why would they do that like i really dont know what to do. other kids in this school be saying really bad stuff and (i dont want to say it but really bad stuff.) i dont kown what to do any motre. |
| Case 7 |  |
| White, female, grade 5, Free Lunch, not special education, not ELL, Language is English, Advanced Math, Advanced Reading | Sometimes people in my class and out of my class spread rumors like I have head lice or they say mean things to me or write mean things about me. Once not to long ago some one wrote a very mean letter that had alot of bad words and nasty thing about me. Allmost all the people who tease me are girls.I feel like I have no friends! |
| Case 8 |  |
| White, female, grade 11, Free Lunch, not special education, not ELL, Language is English, Advanced Math, Goal Reading | People have spread lies about me sleeping around and being pregnant. People have spread rumors that I slept with teachers to get good grades |

Student Social-Emotional Health Profile (Kara)
Insights from Confidential Climate Data Over Time
Factor-Based Scores by Year
( 1 to 5 scale: $1=$ lowest, $5=$ highest and most positive climate)


Actionable data for school counselors: 2014 AERA presentation.

## Matched Scores on Factor 2 "Mean to Me" (hits/threats or mean rumors)

 October 2012 to June 2013- Of the 1,959 students who took both climate surveys last year:


New student application: "Meriden Cares" open all year ...

- Do you have a problem with ....
- Want to tell us $\qquad$
- Trigger email


## Non-Cognitive Measure \#2: "Getting to Know You" Survey

Ask students about their interests and values:

Do you play a musical instrument ... sport ... sing ... other activity?
How much do you like ... math ... reading ... art ... music?
How hard did you work last year? (effort) ... math ... reading ... art ... music?
What is important? ... math ... reading ... art ... music?
What type of classroom instruction do you like best ... lecture, small group ...?
I have perseverance ... I want to do better this year.
... mistakes are OK, as long as you're learning.
... if a person works harder, he/she can do better.
... when class work gets hard, I just work harder.

What is intrinsic motivation?
(factor analysis, build equation and track over time)


What's important ....
Effort ...
What they like ...
Perseverance ....

## "Getting to Know You" Survey Objectives:

- Help foster teacher-student relationships; and
- teachers are very positive
- Provide guidance on how to modify instructional methods to maximize and maintain student perseverance/motivation over time.

Both teacher-student relationships and student perseverance/motivation correlate with student cognitive achievement.

## Summary: Instruments that Produce Actionable Data

## Cognitive Measures

- Diagnostic assessments in Math and Reading (2009 AERA Symposium)

Non-Cognitive Measures

- Confidential Climate Survey ("cutting edge" 2014 research: APA \& AERA)
- Social-emotional health and development
- Getting to Know You Survey (developing over next few years)
- Student interest, values and intrinsic motivation

Both cognitive and non-cognitive measures are free to LEAs but will need further development over the next 2-3 years.

Form a working group of LEAs ... al.larson@meridenk12.org

## Appendix

School Climate Survey for Students
Factors Defined

There are seven (7) verified factors on the Meriden School Climate Survey for Students each on a 5-point scale; the higher the score, the better the school climate. In general, group changes in factor-based scores are significant if greater than 0.15 . Alpha reliabilities (r) of factor-based scales should be greater than .70 on any scale in the affective domain.

Factor 1: Teachers Motivate and Care, is composed of 11 items $(r=.914)$
Students perceive teachers as helpful, fair, caring and motivating; teachers listen to them, tell them when they do a good job and are happy to be in this school. The average factor-based scores decrease as grade level increases from 5 through 9 .

Factor 2: Mean to Me or School Safety is composed of 7 items ( $\mathrm{r}=.758$ )
Students perceive other students as hurting their feelings, saying mean things, possibly hitting and threatening; they worry more about their safety. The average factor-based scores are generally high and steady across grade levels.

Factor 3: Respect Differences is composed of 5 items ( $\mathrm{r}=.759$ )
Students respect each other's differences, but they see skin color as a potential problem; other problems are fighting and students being mean to other. The average factor-based scores decrease as grade level increases from 5 through 9 .

Factor 4: Parent Values School is composed of 4 items ( $\mathrm{r}=.746$ )
Students perceives $s /$ he has a parent or other adult at home who cares about his/her school work, and wants the student to do his/her best and follow school rules; the student also feels s/he will be successful in life. The average factor-based scores are generally high and steady across grade levels.

Factor 5: Parental Home Support is composed of 4 items ( $\mathrm{r}=.721$ )
Student perceives $\mathrm{s} / \mathrm{he}$ has a place and time to do his/her homework and there is a parent who listens and will help with homework if needed. The average factor-based scores decrease as grade level increases from 5 through 12.

Factor 6: Caring Friends is composed of 4 items ( $\mathrm{r}=.749$ )
Students perceive they have a friend their own age who cares about them and they trust and can talk about their problems. The average factor-based scores are generally high and steady across grade levels.

Factor 7: Aggression Towards Others is composed of 3 items ( $\mathrm{r}=.720$ )
Student claims to have hit, pushed or spread mean rumors about other during the past few months, sometimes in anger. The average factor-based scores are generally high and steady across grade levels.

