



Characteristics of Quality Educational Assessments

Assessment literacy involves understanding that assessments are designed to provide teachers, students, parents, and other stakeholders the information needed to make decisions that will support students on their educational paths. Validity, reliability, fairness, student engagement, and consequential relevance are traits of high quality educational assessment, whether large-scale, high-stakes, or classroom-based.

How do the educational assessments you use reflect these traits?

Content Validity

The assessment measures only what it is supposed to measure: the intended learning targets. The assessment enables learners and educators to make accurate inferences about what the learner understands, knows, and can do.

Reliability

Reliability is concerned with making sure that different test forms in a single administration are equivalent; that retests of a given test are equivalent to the original test; and that test difficulty remains constant year to year, administration to administration. Informal, classroom based, teacher-created assessments generally do not directly

Fairness

All students regardless of their individual characteristics have the same chance to show what they understand, know or can do. Nothing about the assessment is systematically unfair to a group of students based on gender, culture, geographical location, linguistic heritage, physical capabilities, etc.

Student Engagement and Motivation

The assessment provides an accurate picture of what students understand, know, and can do because students are motivated to produce their best work.

Consequential Relevance

The usefulness of the assessment results justifies the investment of time and effort in administering and scoring the assessment, and then understanding and meaningfully applying the information to adjust instruction and better support student learning.