

NPL Assessment meets Federal Mandate



With No Child Left Behind, Race to the Top and other federal mandates, states face a lot of challenging criteria to meet when it comes to testing and assessment. Assessment offered within NeuroPath Learning programs are aligned both with the best interests of the States as well as the requirements of the Federal government. This document outlines all the attractive features of NPL assessment that will allow school districts to access funds to meet those mandates.

Budget:

NPL offers both testing and assessment within each of their programs. Moreover, testing and assessment are both automated. This eliminates the need for two separate budgets for test administering and grading. This is a major concern for states especially with the recession driven budget cuts.

Validity and Reliability

With NPL programs school administrators will not have to go to great lengths to ensure validity and reliability of assessment methods because we will do it for you. **Through collaborations with education researchers, NPL will validate all learning and assessment measures. This data will provide the scientific base and evidence base to meet federal requirements.**

Staff Capacity:

NPL programs require very little man power. The one-on-one interaction of the child with the computer while wearing headphones requires

very little adult supervision. **Extra staff will not be required to administer the test or grade since everything is automated.**

Assessment Security:

Online computer based testing using **NPL programs reduces security concerns** such as cheating and leaking of questions.

Time pressures:

Since all student performance data from **NPL assessment is collected in real-time**, schools will not have to worry about meeting time pressures to report test scores.

Teaching to the Test:

One of the consequences of test based accountability is that particularly in low performing schools the test becomes the curriculum because passing that test becomes so all important. If you don't have items that represent the full richness of the academic standards then you put the curriculum at risk of doing the same thing. **Fortunately, NPL programs do offer a broad and deep curriculum that will not limit the educational goals of Schools.**

Academic Standards

NPL programs are well aligned with state academic standards. Currently NPL programs address all requirements in Language and Math for K-2 and future programs in development will meet K-5 academic requirements.

Accountability:

Federal testing requires data from assessments are used to drive accountability decisions mandated under law including corrective actions such as replacing staff and implementing new curriculum. ***NPL programs have a management system built into them. This allows a teacher to evaluate her classroom data and a principal to evaluate her school data. Since data can be shared, it allows for collaboration between teachers, schools and special programs. Gaps in student understanding and weaknesses in curriculum content can be easily identified with NPL programs.***

Alternate Assessments:

The Federal testing mandate also requires States to develop alternate assessments for student with significant cognitive disabilities. States must show sufficient technical quality in their assessments and alignment with their academic standards. States have faced difficulties in developing valid and reliable alternate assessments because the special needs student population is so diverse. ***NPL has spent 12 years of R&D to create a very sophisticated assessment program for special education that addresses this broad diversity in abilities. NPL will also work with special education researchers to validate and to show reliability.***

Collaboration:

States adopting NPL programs can collaborate to share implementation strategies and best practices. NPL is not a vendor of education products but rather we partner with education professionals to help further their goals. We can set up user groups for educators to discuss patterns in assessment data and compare intervention techniques.

Multiple Indicators:

To best evaluate teacher performance, assessments should include ***multiple indicators of what students should know and can do.*** NPL programs not only test traditional measures of language, literacy and math ability but also things like visual intellect, non-verbal abilities, real-world application of knowledge etc to provide a rich and extensive insight into a student's understanding.

Multiple Choice:

Most States are switching to multiple choice assessments in reading, language arts and math to reduce time and cost. However, the criticism for multiple choice assessments is that it limits states from assessing highly cognitively complex content. But ***NPL has been able to design multimedia activities that are able to do just that – assess a wide range of complex cognitive abilities while testing an understanding of the academic content.*** While multiple choice assessments are preferred for very young children, NPL is incorporating more “open/constructed response questions” for higher elementary grades (3-5).

Continuous Assessment:

NPL programs, provide continuous, formative assessment throughout the school year. This allows a daily assessment for teachers and students and an opportunity to track individual student progress during the course of a school year. This measure of personal development of each child is very important information that cannot be gained from a single mid-year evaluation. An ongoing assessment would prevent teaching to the test and the January to March ramp up in pace just before the annual standardized state testing. The assessment we offer is suitable for a broad range of abilities and allows for FORMATIVE assessment of concepts as they are being taught.