Acting on Information from Common Assessments: Core Principles

1. Fairness and Comparability – SPS will create growth scores for all content areas; high, moderate and low thresholds will match those of MCAS
2. Leveraging the Common Assessments to advance District Priorities – Common assessments requiring writing in response to text are being used in all content areas to support the district’s focus on writing to text, close reading and citing evidence
3. Flexibility - Educators in every content area can support the district priorities by asking questions that help students to be critical thinkers and to cite evidence
4. Two-way Communication – Teachers have provided input into, and many cases written, the common assessments
5. Roster Verification - SPS and the teachers’ union came to an agreement about roster verification and reporting data in two ways: teachers will receive data on the students who are in their classes for the full year and data weighted for students who are in their classes for a percentage of the year

Description
- SPS is using a Pre/Post-test model for common assessments across the district
- Student results are shared with teachers and administrators through the Data Warehouse
- SPS will create growth scores for all assessments and will share this information with teachers (e.g. for this assessment, this student performed better than 80% of the other students in SPS who scored similarly on the pre-test)
- High, Moderate and Low ranges for the growth scores will match MCAS

Successes:
- The district has established credibility with educators: data is accessible to teachers and leaders in a timely way, the format provides a context by showing students in relation to their peers
- SPS IT staff frequently meet with teachers and leaders to share and analyze data
- Conversations about multiple measures (common assessments, student feedback...) are viewed as an opportunity to improve practice

Challenges:
- Developing all of the assessments and grading all of the student work

Next Steps
- Next year the assessments will all be administered and graded online using a learning management system
- Median growth percentiles will be create for each teacher for each assessment using data warehouse
- SPS is building a Teacher Profile report, similar to the Student Profile, that compiles all data about a teacher in a single view