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| ESE Star logo | **Superintendent survey on district assessment practices**  October 2014 |

**Data and methodology**

* Survey of all superintendents and charter school leaders conducted in October 2014
* Complete, non-duplicated responses received from 148 respondents for a response rate of 36 percent.
* Respondents are reasonably representative of the state except that they are somewhat more heavily suburban than the state overall.

1. Considering all the assessments your district and schools administer, how are assessment practices determined in your district?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Mainly at the district level | 11.0% | 16 |
| A mix of district and school, but more heavily district | 25.5% | 37 |
| Equally at the district and school level | 34.5% | 50 |
| A mix of district and school, but more heavily school | 20.7% | 30 |
| Mainly at the school level | 8.3% | 12 |
| Total |  | 145 |

2. Does your district offer schools guidance regarding:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes, all grade spans | Yes, elemen-tary schools only | Yes, middle or high schools only | No | Unsure | N |
| The kinds of assessments they should administer | 80.0 %  116 | 8.3 %  12 | 4.8 %  7 | 6.2 %  9 | 0.7 %  1 | 145 |
| The number of assessments they should administer | 58.3 %  84 | 10.4 %  15 | 2.8 %  4 | 25.7 %  37 | 2.8 %  4 | 144 |

3. How often are assessments used for each of the following purposes in your district?

|  | Very often | Fairly often | Sometimes | Rarely or never | N |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| To diagnose students' academic needs | 49.7 %  73 | 32.7 %  48 | 17.0 %  25 | 0.7 %  1 | 147 |
| To place or group students for instructional purposes | 29.3 %  43 | 35.4 %  52 | 29.9 %  44 | 5.4 %  8 | 147 |
| To measure whether students have met specific learning goals | 41.5 %  61 | 42.2 %  62 | 14.3 %  21 | 2.0 %  3 | 147 |
| To benchmark students' learning progress against curriculum pacing expectations | 32.4 %  47 | 35.2 %  51 | 28.3 %  41 | 4.1 %  6 | 145 |
| To determine student course grades/marks | 49.3 %  71 | 32.6 %  47 | 15.3 %  22 | 2.8 %  4 | 144 |
| To help students practice or prepare for summative assessments such as MCAS | 13.7 %  20 | 29.5 %  43 | 44.5 %  65 | 12.3 %  18 | 146 |
| To predict student performance on summative assessments such as MCAS | 12.2 %  18 | 25.0 %  37 | 42.6 %  63 | 20.3 %  30 | 148 |
| To compare individual students' performance to norms | 14.3 %  21 | 32.0 %  47 | 42.2 %  62 | 11.6 %  17 | 147 |
| To communicate with parents about their children's progress | 23.8 %  35 | 44.2 %  65 | 27.9 %  41 | 4.1 %  6 | 147 |
| To provide feedback to teachers on their students' progress | 35.4 %  52 | 44.2 %  65 | 18.4 %  27 | 2.0 %  3 | 147 |

4. In your district, do you have the right amount of testing to meet your instructional and informational needs?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| We have insufficient testing to meet our instructional and informational needs. | 12.3% | 18 |
| We have about the right amount of testing to meet our instructional and informational needs. | 54.8% | 80 |
| We have too much testing to meet our instructional and informational needs. | 32.9% | 48 |
| Total |  | 146 |

5. In your district, do you have the right balance of testing time relative to instructional time?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| We have too little testing relative to instructional time. | 2.7% | 4 |
| We have about the right amount of testing relative to instructional time. | 48.3% | 71 |
| We have too much testing relative to instructional time. | 49.0% | 72 |
| Total |  | 147 |

6. Which DSAC region of the state is your district located in?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Berkshires | 7.5% | 11 |
| Pioneer Valley | 11.6% | 17 |
| Central | 17.0% | 25 |
| Northeast | 17.0% | 25 |
| Greater Boston | 21.1% | 31 |
| Southeast | 25.9% | 38 |
| Total |  | 147 |

7. How would you characterize your district?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Urban | 23.8% | 35 |
| Suburban | 52.4% | 77 |
| Rural | 19.1% | 28 |
| Other | 4.8% | 7 |
| Total |  | 147 |