

Definitions for A Vision of Balanced Assessment

Teaching and Learning:

Teachers are encouraged to use Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. UDL is an instructional approach that helps educators address individual student differences up front as they are planning curriculum, daily instruction and assessment, rather than having to make costly and time-consuming accommodations or modifications after the fact.

UDL is about differentiating instruction and providing opportunities and options for all students to become engaged learners and demonstrate what they have learned, using multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement.

Links to UDL document for more information

<http://udlguidelines.wordpress.com/introduction/>

<http://cast.org/>

Essential Standards:

those skills, understandings and learning experiences that a student must master at each grade level to move to the next level. Essential standards are the "must have" goals of the curriculum and will help teachers focus on the higher-order knowledge and skills that all students should master.

Summative Assessment:

a tool used after instruction to measure student achievement which provides evidence of student competence or program effectiveness.

Benchmark Assessment:

assessments given to students periodically throughout the year to determine how much learning has taken place up to a particular point in time (or up to a particular place in the learning continuum) and to track progress toward meeting curriculum goals and objectives.

Formative Assessment:

a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides immediate feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to help students improve their achievement of intended instructional outcomes.