

Table III

Uses of State Assessment Data

Most of the 38 states that have assessment testing programs report multiple uses of them. The number of states reporting *various* uses of state assessment data is as follows, in order of frequency of use: public accountability (34), curriculum improvement at the state level (33), monitoring student achievement trends (30), informing educational policy (27), making comparisons with national norms (28), making comparisons among districts within the state (17), making comparisons among regions in the state (13), incentives and sanctions (8), and rating of schools (2), with another contemplated for the near future (Georgia).

There is little evidence that state assessment data is being used for purposes of giving *or* denying funds to school districts on the basis of student performance, but there are selective uses of this type in a few states. For example, California has established an educational improvement fund based on improvement of 12th grade scores over the previous year. Connecticut is phasing in a mastery testing program which will be used to identify schools needing additional money based on mastery level statistics. Michigan, which dropped a program *in* 1974 that withheld funds from districts not showing improvement in state assessment results, now bases funding for compensatory education on these results. South Carolina's 1984 law identifies districts where the quality of education is seriously impaired, and it is anticipated that sanctions may be used where such instances are found. These sanctions may not be monetary. Washington provides remedial assistance for percentages of students scoring in the lowest quartile in grade 4. Since 1980, Virginia has provided a system for allocating funds for remedial education based on state assessment data. Florida employs a system of funding compensatory education programs based on state assessment data.

In Alabama and New York, the legislature and the State Board of Regents, respectively, work with the state education agencies to see that deficiencies in the school systems, as revealed by state assessment data, are addressed by state education agencies using resources other than financial.

District level curriculum improvement was the most frequently mentioned local use of state assessment information. Comparison of results among schools was also mentioned several times.

California and Pennsylvania have developed sophisticated systems of data analysis and reporting. California groups schools according to socioeconomic status (SES), aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) and English proficiency measures in an effort to make more justifiable the comparisons of performance among schools. A more complete accounting of the variables used by the different states in aiding interpretation of test results is found in the discussion of Table IV.

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State	State Uses										Local Use Notes
	Curriculum Improvement	Sanctions	Finance	Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons Regions In state	Diatrichs in state	Inform educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teachers, schools	Notes/Other	
Alabama	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	In 1979-Legislature determined schools with greatest need. State Dept. provides assistance.	
Alaska	Y	N	N	N	Y	starts in 1983	*	*	N		District level curriculum improvement; public accountability.
Arizona	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	*	Y	N	Y: AZ <sup>21</sup>	District level curriculum improvement. Compare schools within district. Evaluate performance of teachers/administrators. For Chapter 1 & initial screening of gifted.

SOURCE: Data Compiled for the Office of Technology Assessment by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 1985.

AZ1: State Board Rule & Regulation: In order to be promoted from the 8th grade, student must be able to read, write, and compute at a 6th grade level-prior to graduation from high school student must be able to read at a 9th grade level. IEA's may determine what is meant by 9th grade level

Law: All school districts must develop a continuous uniform evaluation system for K-12; IEA's had to come up with objectives for reading, writing, math and a means for measuring them; record keeping system to show whether students have mastered objectives, a parent reporting system, and development of alternative learning plans for students who had not mastered objectives.

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## STATE USES

State	Curriculum improvement	Finance		Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons			Inform educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teachers/schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
		Sanctions	Incentives		Nation	Regions in state	Districts in state					
Arkansas	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Most looking at baseline data in 1988 and trends within the state since that time.	
California	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Use comparison score bands for schools with similar SES. AFDC, Eng <sup>150</sup> Prof. program.	

Colorado - No State Program

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	STATE USES				Monito- ach. trend	Sanct	om			Inform educ. policy	Public account- ability	Rate teachers/ schools	Notes/ Other	Local Use Notes
	Curriculum improvement	ives	Sanct	ives			Mon	ach	trend					
Connecticut A. State Assmt Program	Y	N	N		Y		Y		N	Y	Y	N		istrict level curriculum improvement. unding allocations. omparison within district. ublic accountability.
B. Mastery Prog	Y		N		N		N		Y	Y	Y	N	Mastery program will give money based on need.	
Delaware	Y				Y		Y		*	N	Y	N	Some say there is to much emphasis on basic skills.	District level curriculum improvement. Compare schools within the district. Public accountability.
District of Columbia	Y		N		Y		Y		N	Y	Y	N		Compare school within district. Public accountability.

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imp	Finance Incentives	Monitor ach. trends	Comp s s			Inform educ. policy	Public account- ability	Rate teachers/ schools	Notes/ Other	Local Use Notes
			Nation	R g s	D s r i c t s state					
Florida	Y Compensate education program.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y To label deficient school programs	Phi	District level curriculum improvement. Compare schools with District. Public accountability.
Georgia	N	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Future use anticip- ated for schools & teachers negative press that goes with that.	Negative consequences ranking of school districts based on test scores and negative press that goes with that.	District level curriculum improvement. Funding allocation for remedial purposes. Compare school within district. Evaluations performance teachers/administrators future anticipated as part of Gen. Assembly Act, e.g., career ladder for teachers. Plan staff development programs.

2 : To enhance teaching of minimum, but no programs as such come from legislature; primary education program put into motion to ensure that students in 1, 2, and 3 have mastered on output.

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State	Curriculum Improvement	Finance			Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons			Inform educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teachers/schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
		Sanctions	Incentives			Nation	Regions in state	Districts in state					
Hawaii	Y	N	N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	School level improvement. Student diagnosis. Program evaluation.	Districts get additional funding on a regular basis. but there is no formula. Tests used for student diagnosis. improvement also.
Idaho	Y	N	N		N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N		District level curriculum improvement. They rec. that counselors use it for placement and advisement
Illinois	N	N	N		Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N		

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	CRASS uses									
	Curriculum improvement	Finance	Monitor ach.	Comparisons		Inform educ. policy	Public account- ability	Rate teachers/ schools	Notes/ Other	Local Use Notes
				Regions in state	Districts in state					
Indiana	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	*	Y	State provides funding for additional remedial instruction.	Curriculum improvement.
Iowa no state program										
Kansas	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y		District level Curriculum improvement. Public accountability.
Kentucky	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Same as before 1985.	Comparison to schools within district. A change in '85. Required annual perf report.



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TABLE ES

	Curriculum improvement	Finance		Monitoring ach. trend	Comparison		Inform educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teachers/schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
		Sanctions	Incentives		Nation	Regions in state					
Alabama	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	None.	LEA's use data for curriculum improvement.
Maine	Y	U	U	Y	limited comparison with MEPS items.	Y	Y	Y	N	1984 legislation provides for comparison within regions and among districts.	Parental reports.
Maryland	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N		Curriculum improvement. Compare within district. Public accountability.

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State	Curriculum Improvement	Finance		Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons			Inform. educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teachers, schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
		Sanctions	Incentives		Nation	Regions in state	Districts in state					
Massachusetts - No state program												
Michigan	Y	N	Compensator Education (in 1974 dropped withholding funds for district not showing improvement)	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N		
Minnesota	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	By strata	Y	Y	N		no ude of test- ing, mgs affected living and assign- ment o teachers.
Mississippi	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N		

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STATE USES											
Curriculum improvement	e ives		M o h d	Compar s s		Inform educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teacher/schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes	
	Sanct			Regions in sta	D s s e						
MISSOURI	Y	N		N	N	N	N	N	1985 program will change this.	Identify trends.	
Nebraska - No state program											
Nevada - No state program											
New Hampshire - state program											

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Table II<sup>F</sup>  
Uses of State Assessment Data

State	Curriculum improvement	STATE USES					Inform educ. policy	Subj. area	Relevance to schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
		Mod.	h	red	Comparisons	Regions in state	Districts in state				
New Jersey											
No state program											
New Mexico	Y				Y	Y	N	N	N	Accreditation	NMI
New York	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	N	Regents in some districts are instrumental in changes, e.g., extra help.	Data used to compare schools within a district, for public accountability & program effectiveness.

NM: Accreditation is based in part on student scores on CTES-4. This policy obviously affects district curriculum by the fact that accreditors monitor the progress/trends of each district and the districts have become sensitive to drops in student scores.

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STATE USES

Curriculum improvement	Finance		Monitoring achievement trends	Comparisons		Inform educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teacher/school	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
	Sanctions	Incentives		Regions in state	Districts in state					
Y District: Used as part of accreditation process; monitor achievement of specific objectives.	N	N	Y	Y There are 8 educ'l regions and all are compared to one another	Y All school systems within region & across state are compared; do not rank school system.	Y State level account-ability mechanism	Y Public account-ability achieved by reporting student data to parents. School system scores made available to media-wk. with TV and radio in interpreting what scores mean.	Y		District can look at strengths and weaknesses. Compare schools within district.
State: Progress in GLE's and percentile by subtest areas.										

North Carolina -  
NC state program

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Uses of State Assessment Data

Cu imp	m	m	e s e s s e s			Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons			Inform edu. policy	Public account- ability	Rate teachers schools	Notes/ Other	Local Use Notes
							Nation	Regions in state	Districts in state					
Ohio - No state program														
Ok ahoma - No state program														
Oregon						N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N		

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## STATE USES

State	Curriculum Improvement		Finance		Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons			Inform educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teachers/schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
	Sanctions	Incentives	Sanctions	Incentives		Nation	Regions in state	Districts in state					
Pennsylvania	To examine curriculum overtime e.g., content, also looked at staffing - if over-time school has low scores; teachers m	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Up to discret of dist	schools	chool effectiveness rogram.	urvey done by SEA on occasion taps LEA use of assessment data - SEA generates report.
Rhode Island	Primary data used to add a new school base for developing IV; also long-range	N	N	N	Y	Y	1985	1	Y	1985	N		985 - will use for student placement & identification.

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State	STATE USES										Local Use Notes
	Curriculum Improvement	Sanctions	Finance Incent	Mo ch re d	Comp s s R g s D s icts ation s a e state	Inform educ. policy	Pub co ab	Ra e each y school s	Notes/ Other		
South Carolina	Y	'84 law could lead to sanctions	N		Y N N	Y		N	'84 law identifies districts where qua of education is seriously impaired. Possible removal of superintendent is possible.		
South Dakota	Y	N	N		Y N	N		N	None.	District curriculum improvement.	
Tennessee - Not available for interview											
Texas - No state program											



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Table I<sup>1</sup>  
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Curriculum improvement	Finance		Motivation	Comparisons		Inform. educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teacher/schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
	Sanctions	Incentives		Regions in state	Districts in state					
Y	N	N		N	N	Y	Y	N	None.	Non-representative sample prevents school-to-school comparison. Some schools compare their scores to state and nation norms.
N	N	Y (VAL)		N	N	Y	Y	N	In 1972 test was changed and scores dropped. Public outcry affected state education policy.	District curriculum improvement, measure progress of students, outery affected state programs.

1 -No stat program

Virginia

1 In 1980, the State Board approved special funding for remedial education staff to be provided to districts with low scores. This move was to head off similar activities in the legislature. Many people are now trying to reverse the ruling.

VAL:

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Uses of State Assessment Data

State	STATE USES										
	Curriculum improvement	Finance		Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons		Inform educ. policy	Public accountability	Rate teachers/schools	Notes/Other	Local Use Notes
		Sanctions	Incentives		Nation	Regions in state	Districts in state				
Washington	Y	Z	Y <sup>1</sup>	Z	Y	Z	Y		Z		There is remediation assistance program percent of student scoring in lowest quartile.
West Virginia	N	Z	Z	Z	N	Z	N	Z	Z		District curriculum improvement-primary purpose of tests.
Wisconsin - Not available for interview											

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Tabl. I  
Uses of State Assessment Data

State	STATE USES										Local Use Notes	
	Curriculum improvement	Finance		Monitor ach. trends	Comparisons			Inform. educ. policy	Public account-ability	Rate teachers/schools		Notes/Other
		Sanctions	Incentives		Regions in state	Districts in state	N					
Wyoming	Y	N	N	in 85	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Districts can piggyback upon state and set up their area testing program with ETS. 31 out of 9 districts last year	