DATA TRACKING AND GOAL SETTING

Assessment is a meaningful, positive and empowering learning experience for students that yields timely, relevant and actionable evidence.
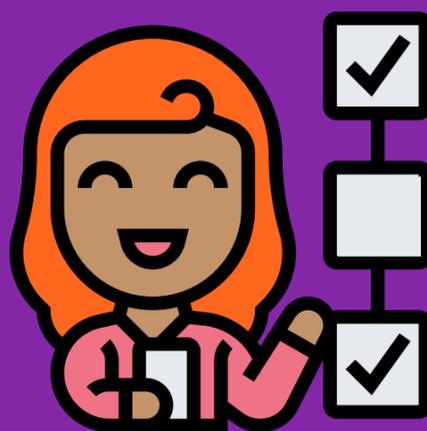
Cultivating Agency and Authenticity in Assessment

Data tracking and goal setting are pivotal elements in fostering agency and authenticity in assessment. By establishing clear, measurable learning objectives aligned with each student's needs and interests, both educators and students can identify strengths, areas needing improvement and patterns of growth or stagnation. Progress monitoring is about growth toward mastery or proficiency of skills, standards or competencies, through a progression of rigor. When students actively participate in setting learning goals and monitoring their progress toward authentic learning, they gain a sense of ownership over their learning journey, providing students with opportunities to make informed decisions about their needs and develop resilience in overcoming challenges.

Elementary

Ideas for progress monitoring toward goals at the elementary level

- Create rubrics that help learners understand how they will advance from "establishing" to "developing" to "proficient" or beyond. Rubrics can be about academic targets, collaboration and team work skills, Portrait of a Graduate Competencies, etc.
- Encourage students to track their progress using a bulletin board or sticker chart. Celebrate when learners accomplish a goal.
- Have students color in a graph as they approach their goals.

Secondary

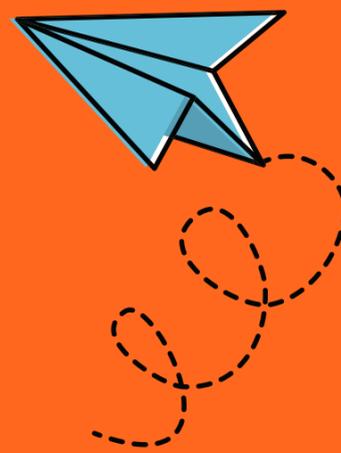**Ideas for progress monitoring toward goals at the secondary level**

- Have learners set goals aligned to a rubric or learning progression. Rubrics can be interdisciplinary, focusing on durable skills, including critical thinking, collaboration, communication and problem-solving. Rather than assessing isolated content knowledge, rubrics assess how students apply these skills across disciplines, creating a cohesive understanding of each student's growth.
- Conference with learners so they can talk through their progress on the rubric or learning progression.
- Use a weekly goal setting sheet so that learners can personalize pace and time to meet their goal.

Getting Started

When beginning a new unit or topic, create a space where the learners can help determine what the path to excellence looks like:

- What are you/we learning? What is the target/goal?
- Why is this important?
- What knowledge/skills do you already have? What is your path to proficiency from here?
- How will you know when you learned it?
- How might you extend your knowledge once you've achieved proficiency?

Tips

- Model what goal setting looks like using a non-academic example
- Start simple – have learners set goals for the class period/day
- Ensure that goals and progress charts are visible and become a part of the classroom culture
- Create time in the day for reflection or conferencing with learners about goals

More Resources

- More Than Taking a Test: What Assessment Looks Like in a Personalized, Competency-Based Learning Environment
- Three Ways to Start Making Your Classroom Student-Centered
- Growth Mindset
- The Role of a Teacher in a Personalized, Competency-Based Classroom
- Presentations of Growth Mindset in Classic Children's Fiction
- Students Track Their Own Learning