How can (and should) we assess high-quality afterschool interventions?

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Assessment in Any Context Has Important Considerations

- Is there Validity?  
  *(Measuring What We Want)*
- Is there Reliability?  
  *(Consistency)*
- Is it Feasible?  
  *(Cost, Logistics, and Effort Workable)*
- When Do We Need It?  
  *(Formative and Summative Timelines)*
### Types of Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired Measurement</th>
<th>Method of Assessment/Data Collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Delphi method/ ‘think-aloud’ session observations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem-solving skills</td>
<td>Delphi method/ ‘think-aloud’ session observations</td>
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<tr>
<td>D/F/W rates for participants pre-/post-</td>
<td>Transcript inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPA (pre-/post-)</td>
<td>Transcript inquiry &amp; student self-report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade level</td>
<td>Transcript inquiry &amp; student self-report</td>
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<td>Career Choice(s)</td>
<td>Student self-report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content Knowledge</td>
<td>Self-reported</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of engagement</td>
<td>Self-reported</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of dependability</td>
<td>Self-reported</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of organization</td>
<td>Self-reported</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>Self-reported, Delphi method, &amp; DoS</td>
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NE STEM 4U Program

- Initiated at UNO in 2013
- Student-run, faculty-led program engaging youth in STEM areas
- Partnership between UNO, Collective for Youth, Beyond School Bells, and Omaha Public Schools
- Serve ~1,200-2,000 students K-8 annually
What types of assessment can we use for **sustainability** of the program?

- Focus groups
- Interest matrix
- Surveys
What types of assessment can we use for **quality** of the program?

- Surprise observations
- Video taping
- Audio recording
- Dimensions of Success or CLASS or another instrument
What types of assessment can we use in an effort to maintain funding of the program?

- Focus groups
- Interest matrix
- Surveys
- Surprise observations
- Video taping
- Audio recording
- Dimensions of Success or CLASS or another instrument
Discussion of strengths of these assessments:

• Objective metrics
• Collection of very broad types of data
• Provides live information
• Allows for longitudinal studies
• Can compare these results with NeSA scores, etc
Discussion of weaknesses of these assessments:

• Expensive
• Time consuming
• What’s the short-term and long-term output?
  – How will we make immediate vs. long-term changes based on assessment results?
  – How do we make “live” changes to programming that don’t affect data collection?
  – How do we ensure adequate control vs intervention groups?
What do funders want? (Long-term sustainability)

- Reliable, replicable data
- Objective evaluations in place
- Dissemination of the results- in some venue
- Translation across schools, districts, states
Acknowledgements

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– Beyond School Bells
– Omaha Public Schools
– UNO ORCA

More information: http://nebraskaomaha.orgsync.com/org/nestem4u