

California Adult Education Digital Learning Guidance

Chapter 6: Data-Driven Instruction and Digital Assessment

Think about:

- What valuable insights can adult educators gain from data obtained through digital assessments?

Purposes of Assessment – Assessment informs instruction and improves learning outcomes. Routine assessment and data collection measure learner progress and encourage self-reflection. Digital learning tools provide rich data for assessment. Assessments empower learners to identify strengths and areas for growth and align efforts with learning goals.

Advantages and Analyzing Data from Digital Assessments – Data from digital assessments provides valuable insights for educators. Instant feedback and reporting options help identify individual and group learner strengths and needs. Educators use this data to inform instruction, provide additional support, and predict readiness for certification tests and postsecondary education. Timing of assessments, learner attendance, and external factors should be considered for accurate reflection of learner outcomes.

Standardized and Performance-Based Assessments – Standardized assessments in adult education serve multiple purposes, including measuring learner progress, indicating readiness for advanced opportunities, and providing consistent data for comparisons. These assessments help with placement, diagnostic planning, formative and summative evaluation, and certification. Performance-based assessments and citizenship tests assess real-life tasks and knowledge. Remote testing has become more prevalent, offering increased access and flexibility for learners, but it requires proper identification, security measures, proctor training, and consideration of technical challenges and costs.

Digital Skills Assessments – Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment offers online modules and assessments to measure adult learners' digital literacy skills. Learners can earn certificates and badges, and there are curricula available for classroom use. SkillRise has partnered with Northstar to develop an assessment and credential aligned with lifelong learning skills. The NEDP includes standards for computer skills and responsible technology use. EL Civics covers internet safety and online communication, and COAAPs integrate digital literacy components.

Informal Assessments – Informal assessments are valuable tools for educators to gather information about learners' understanding and identify areas for additional support. Digital badging is one form of informal assessment that allows learners to showcase their achievements and skills. Digital badges provide credibility, recognition, and a comprehensive portfolio of accomplishments.

Digital Assessment Tools – When selecting a digital assessment tool, adult educators should consider the purpose of the assessment, available resources, and learners' familiarity with the tool. Several options are available, such as group discussions, gamification tools like Kahoot and Quizizz, polling tools like Mentimeter and Poll Everywhere, quiz creation tools like Google Forms and Microsoft Forms, and digital portfolios created using presentation software or learning management systems. Each tool offers unique features and benefits, allowing educators to engage learners and assess their understanding effectively.

For consideration:

- What are the main challenges faced by educators in planning and implementing digital learning in adult education programs?
- What are the accountability measures and reporting requirements for adult education programs, specifically in relation to federal and state policies, funding, and skill gains?