



# Innovating Educator Assessment: Assessment for Learning

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Pearson VUE | Ensuring every learner has capable educators

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A few weeks ago, the Evaluation Systems Leadership Team met in Austin, Texas for planning and calibration. We do this periodically, as necessary, to ensure internal alignment and to assess our progress in meeting the evolving needs of our clients and partners. Our team discussed many topics that are top of mind to our clients and partners including educator shortages, educative assessments, applied approaches, and educator learning.

*While we have made considerable progress on each of these fronts, it became clear we need to increase our focus on Assessment for Learning.*

As a workforce organization dedicated to serving educators, Evaluation Systems is often first to market new enhancements, solutions, and perspectives that reduce friction into and through the educator pipeline. Over the years, we have successfully advanced innovations including multiple measure approaches (*FLEX*—our innovative assessment option designed for candidates on the verge of passing), performance assessments and embedded performance tasks, and customized educator learning content. However, while we have made notable strides in these areas transforming the historical core of our remit, large-scale licensure assessment innovation has been more gradual.

Assessment for Learning is routinely discussed at conferences, industry events, and in research circles. There is a growing body of knowledge on this topic sharing a common goal—to mitigate challenges within our current high-stakes assessment model. Despite widespread discussion, only a few organizations are actively advancing initiatives to conceptualize and implement assessments designed to facilitate learning.

For Evaluation Systems, ensuring educator quality is a core tenant of our value proposition. We know that qualified educators positively impact student learning outcomes, and we believe that student learning is the top priority of public education.

*We also believe that it is our responsibility as the leader in educator licensure assessment to lead the way on innovations that balance the need to ensure educator quality with the need to reduce educator pipeline friction.*

To this end, Evaluation Systems has dedicated considerable time and effort to design a new approach for educator testing, one that enables these two seemingly contradictory goals. This innovative approach is grounded in Assessment for Learning principles, often referred to as embedded educator assessment, assessment essentials, and/or integrated educator assessment.

*Presently, Evaluation Systems is actively developing and integrating this approach into The Series (National Evaluation Series) assessments, in partnership with leading educator credentialing agencies.*

Although this is a somewhat anti-climactic post, I understand that details on the “what” are very important. I view this blog series as a valuable platform to share insights into Evaluation Systems’ vision and progress. Stay tuned for additional updates on this topic in the coming months, including a few very exciting announcements.