Assessment Essentials—Teachers Need to Know and Use

Term	Explanation
assessment	determining the relationship between the status of a learner and the intended level of performance
baseline	the initial starting point for an educational intervention
criterion	specification of the level or kind of knowledge or ability of a learner to meet a standard; specification of a level or quality of an instructional activity to meet curricular and instruction requirements
evaluation	determining the value of something
formative evaluation	analyzing the impact of an educational activity with the intention to improve instruction or respond to identified needs of the learner
learning standard	description of what all learners must know and be able to do
outcome	the results of an educational program or intervention
performance based assessment	determining level of competence through an activity in which the learner demonstrates through application the intended learning outcomes
qualitative analysis	Interpretation of statements, oral and written, observations, artifacts.
quantitative analysis	Interpretation of data that quantify results. Some qualitative data can be restated in quantitative terms.
summative evaluation	determining the value of an educational activity or program with the intention of making a final judgment

Principles of Assessment for Effective Teaching/Learning
Based on Understanding by Design.

Principle	Explanation
Focus	Emphasize important elements (essential and enduring content).
Application	Assess both knowledge and abilities.
Explicit	Clearly communicate the intended outcomes, the kind of work to be done, and the criteria and standards to be met.
Flexibility	Use a variety of formats to assess.
Formative for the Educator	Provide a basis to analyze and improve the program.
Comprehensive	Summative evaluation should be based on several demonstrations of learning outcomes.
Transfer	Evaluate the learners' ability to apply what has been learned to other contexts.
Independence	Evaluate the degree of independence with which the learner uses the knowledge.

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Resources prepared for principals participating in OPPD Leadership Forums.