

PATH TO TESTING THAT MATTERS



Get Smart About Measuring What Matters

Review Education First's compilation of best [resources and tools](#)¹.

Know the criteria for the design of high-quality state tests—see [what state education chiefs say](#)².

Articulate your own state criteria: What skills and knowledge matter most today? Ask teachers, parents and employers to help.

Recognize that many state tests—maybe our state's too?—don't measure up despite claims.



Get Evidence About Test Quality

Ask for independent proof that tests meet high-quality criteria. Don't just trust assertions.

Repurpose existing tools that can help with your own test review—no need to reinvent.

Engage an outside partner: Experts such as [Achieve](#)³ and [National Network of State Teachers of the Year](#)⁴ can help determine whether your test is high quality.



Invite Higher Ed to Weigh In

One goal for tests is to understand if kids are on track for success: What does higher ed say about your tests?

Convene higher ed faculty to review your tests and validate their value.

Washington, Illinois and Tennessee asked higher ed leaders to confirm new state tests reflected the knowledge and skills needed for success in their 2- and 4-year colleges. For help with similar reviews, the [Higher Education for Higher Standards](#)⁵ coalition has tools and advice.



Engage Classroom Teachers

Good teachers know a good assessment.

Convene excellent teachers to review test questions and offer suggestions for improvement: Does your state test reflect high-quality teaching?

Ask teachers to identify what else they need in order to know how well students are learning.

The following resources have organized teacher reviews and can help:

[National Network of State Teachers of the Year](#)⁴

[TeachPlus](#)⁶

[Student Achievement Partners](#)⁷

Resources: 1. www.education-first/tests

2. www.ccsso.org

3. www.achieve.org/publications/state-assessment-reviews-evaluating-quality-and-alignment

4. www.nnstoy.org/publications/the-right-trajectory/

5. http://highereducationforhigherstandards.org/alignmentbrief/?utm_source=HEHS&utm_medium=footer&utm_campaign=AligningExpectations

6. www.teachplus.org/news-events/publications/1000-teachers-examine-parcc-perspectives-quality-new-assessments

7. <http://achievethecore.org/page/2732/understand-how-ccss-aligned-assessment-is-different>