

UW System Teacher Quality Initiative

Student Teaching Assessment of Content Knowledge–STACK

*Funded through US Department of Education FIPSE grant
and UWSA PK–16 Grant*

Today's Goal:

Showcase a UW System Teacher Quality Initiative that:

- ❖ Incorporates the Common Core State Standards *and*
- ❖ Promotes K–12 student learning by improving teacher effectiveness

Common Core State Standards...

...Clarify
K-12 Learning
Outcomes/Standards

...Create a
Common
Language

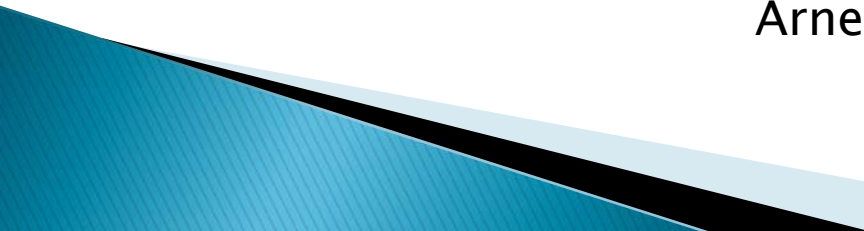
...Mandate Alignment of
Assessments with Standards

What is driving our work?

A National Call to Action

...the bar must be raised for successful teacher preparation programs because we ask much more of teachers today than even a decade ago.

U.S. Secretary of Education
Arne Duncan, 2009



What is driving our work?

Challenges from Professional Organizations

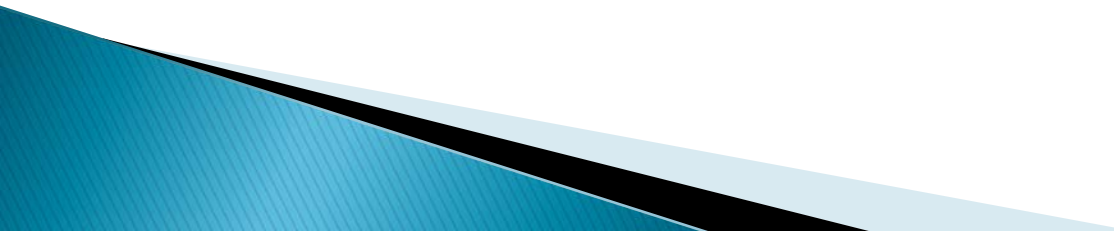
Provide evidence that the teachers prepared at member institutions will have a positive effect on their students' learning.

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (2010)



What is driving our work?

General criticism of current assessment practices

- Lack of consensus on what to evaluate
 - Untrained supervisors
 - Evaluations omit connection between teaching and student learning
 - Assessments yield information of limited use
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What is driving our work?

A shared belief that...

...Wisconsin's educators must be the leaders of reform.

...Efforts to improve accountability must serve to enhance continuous improvement of educational practices and advance student learning, PK-16.

Where have these driving forces led us?

To the creation of **STACK**; a student-teaching assessment system that is:

- ▶ Grounded in content standards,
- ▶ Collaboratively designed, and
- ▶ Has the potential to transform teacher preparation practices, as recognized by the substantial funding from DOE/FIPSE

STACK is an Assessment System

▶ Pre–Observation Conference

- Student teacher identifies content standard

Example: Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable, including equations with coefficients represented by letters (CCSS Algebra Standard)

▶ Observation of Classroom Teaching Event

▶ Post–Observation Conference

Common Core State Standard: ALGEBRA

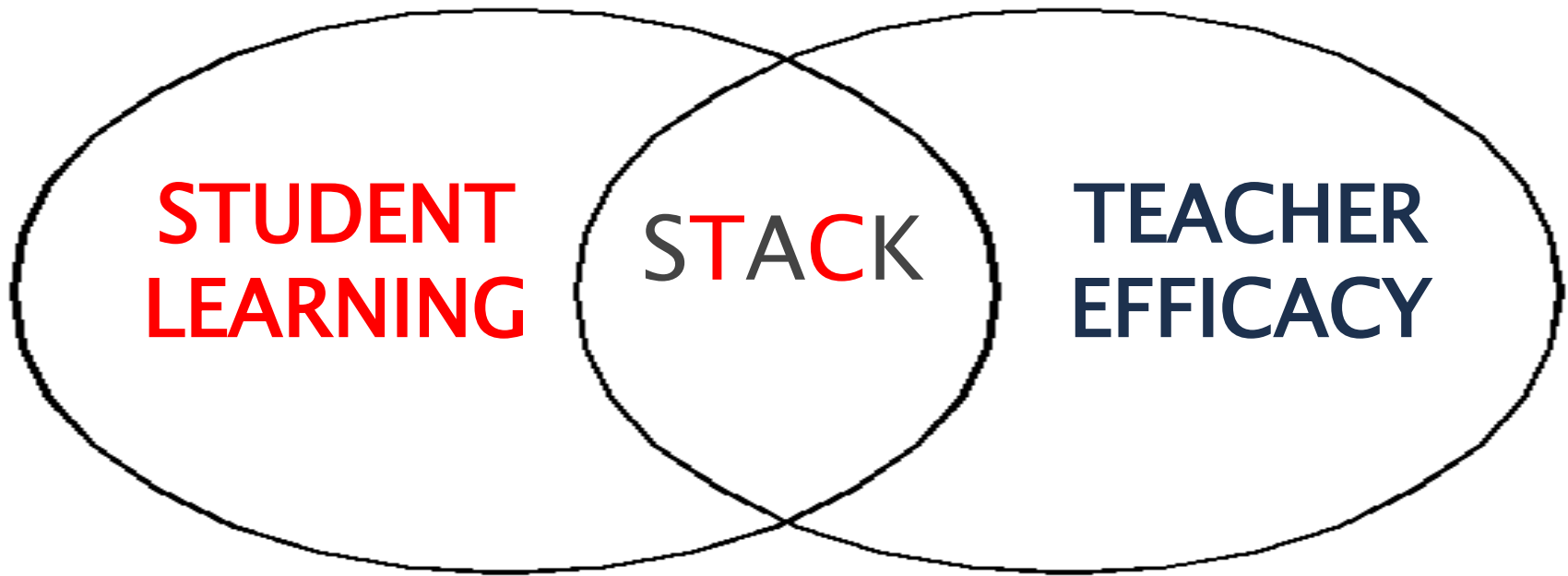
Standard: *Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable, including equations with coefficients represented by letters*

Content Accuracy: *This dimension is concerned with the accuracy of the student-teacher's content knowledge*

Element					
Vocabulary & Notation	Does not apply to lesson	Relevant but not observed	Vocabulary and notation consistently used incorrectly throughout the observation.	Some mistakes in the vocabulary and notation used during the observed lesson.	Vocabulary and notation used correctly.
Circle ONE	NA	0	1	2	3
Comments					

Outcome of STACK :

Improve K-12 student learning in *mathematics* and *science* through increased teacher effectiveness



How does **STACK** address previous limitations?

Consensus is achieved through the use of Common Core State Standards


Evaluators trained on instruments, resulting in more reliable results

STACK is part of dynamic system—includes multiple forms of assessment, overtime AND PK–12 student learning artifacts

Resulting data can be used to inform program practices



What's next for STACK?

- ▶ Complete pilot phase (Spring 2011)
 - ▶ Document improvements in teacher preparation programs based on assessment tool use (Spring 2011)
 - ▶ Revise assessment tool to reflect CCSS (Fall 2011)
 - ▶ Expand into additional content areas (Fall 2011)
 - ▶ Strengthen use of K–12 student learning artifacts in STACK system (Fall 2011)
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Preferred Future:

We have the opportunity to **establish a vibrant vision for educator preparation**, one that leverages the best of what has worked in the past, combined with what educators need now and in the future, **in order to prepare all students for the future** they deserve.

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the
Partnership for 21st Century Skills



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