

Reviewing your assessment policies and practices

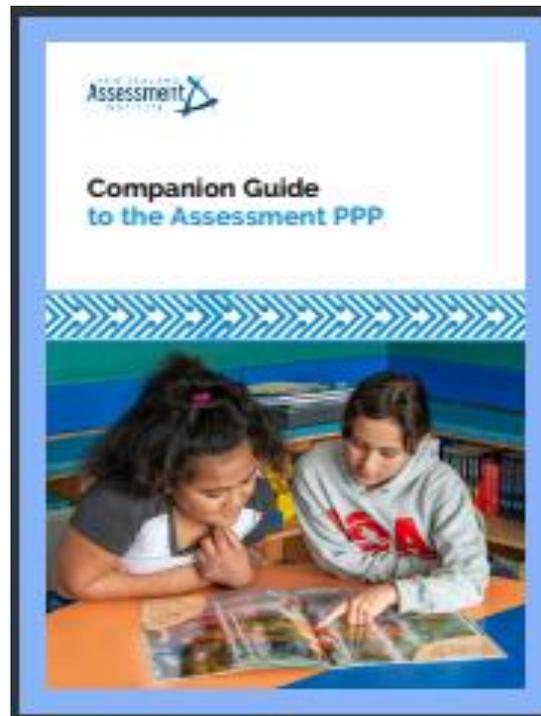
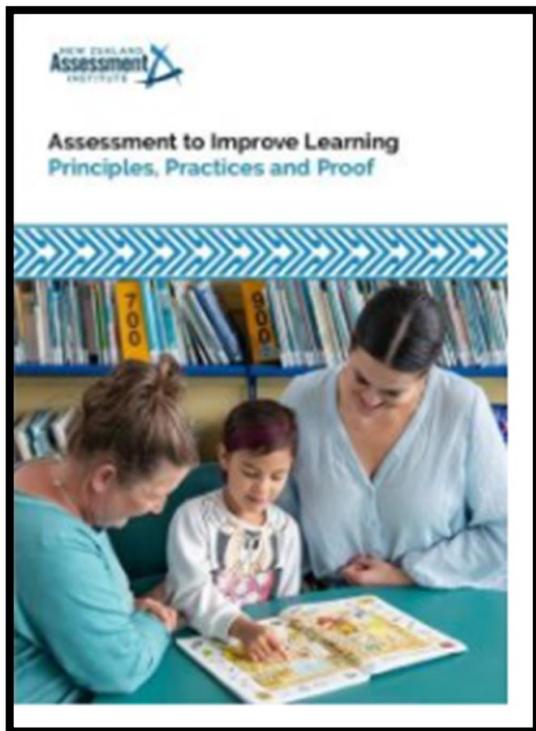
- ▶ Nau mai, haere mai. Afio mai. Welcome to our webinar.
- ▶ While you are waiting, think about:
 - ▶ *why schools and teachers should review their assessment practices.*



- ▶ During the webinar please mute your sound:



- ▶ We plan to record the session. Go to www.nzai.org.nz/knowledge-centre/webinars next week.



Reviewing your assessment policies and practices

NZAI Executive Members: Dr Jenny Poskitt and Adrienne Carlisle, 29 July, 2021

Session overview

- ▶ What do we mean by assessment?
- ▶ Guiding documents - Assessment PPP and Companion Guide
- ▶ Reviewing your assessment practices - who?
- ▶ Reviewing your assessment practices - how?
- ▶ Group discussions



What do we mean by assessment?

- ▶ All those activities by which teachers and students are able to measure progress and achievement in order to improve learning and teaching
 - ▶ Teacher observations
 - ▶ Learning conversations
 - ▶ Assessment of class work and feedback
 - ▶ Self and peer assessment against established criteria
 - ▶ Informal teacher-made tests, quizzes
 - ▶ More formal assessment, such as e-asTTle and PAT
 - ▶ NCEA internal and external assessment

What are the Assessment PPP and its Companion Guide?

- ▶ The documents have been published by NZAI to assist schools by defining the principles, practices and proofs of good educational assessment.
- ▶ Two copies were sent to all schools earlier this year.
- ▶ Online access is available at <https://www.nzai.org.nz/knowledge-centre/assessment-ppp/>
- ▶ They help schools to evaluate the extent to which their classroom and organisational assessment practices do actually support teaching and learning.
- ▶ They are based on the fundamental belief that assessment goes hand in hand with learning and teaching to improve student progress and achievement.

Assessment principles

1. Assessment guides improvement in learning and teaching.
2. Assessment builds student agency.
3. Necessary and sufficient evidence of progress and achievement is gathered using a range of assessment approaches.
4. Curriculum is interconnected with learning, teaching and assessment.
5. Assessment is fair and serves the learning of all students.
6. Assessment information is dependable.
7. Assessment information is essential at all tiers of the education system.



There's so
much here.
Where to
start?

A basic suggestion for introducing the Assessment PPP to your staff



- ▶ Leaders introduce the **Assessment PPP** in a staff meeting.
- ▶ Form into groups of between three to five people.
- ▶ Give each group a copy of one of the principles. (Principle 7 can be discussed by more than one group. It's very long!)
- ▶ Groups have ten minutes to read about their principle, highlight, take notes, discuss and prepare for general presentation.
- ▶ A presenter chosen from the group has 90 seconds to present key information.

Helpful accessories!



▶ Timers

- ▶ <https://www.online-stopwatch.com/classroom-timers/>
- ▶ Rocket timer - <https://www.online-stopwatch.com/rocket-timer/>

▶ Random name and number pickers

- ▶ <https://www.online-stopwatch.com/random-name-pickers/>

Fishing random name or number picker

- ▶ <https://www.online-stopwatch.com/random-name-pickers/fishing-name-picker/>

Where to from here?



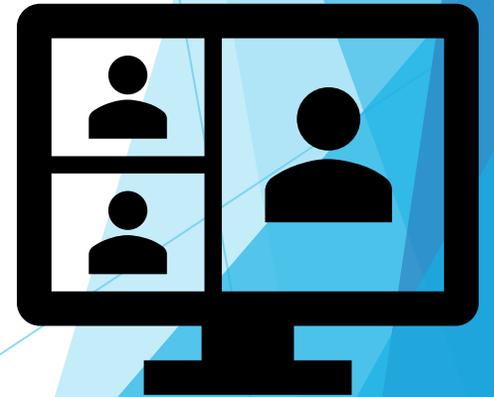
- ▶ Preferred groupings can then dive further into a review of their assessment practices.
- ▶ Examples of groupings are:
 - ▶ Individual reflection
 - ▶ Departmental or syndicate meetings
 - ▶ Further whole staff meetings
 - ▶ Leadership meetings

What do you think? How can you organise to make it happen?

Now that you've chosen groups, where to start? You can't do everything at once!

- ▶ Take a careful look at the principles in the **Assessment PPP**. What needs most attention? Student agency? Relationships with parents and whānau? Use of assessment information to improve learning and teaching?
- ▶ Choose a section.
- ▶ Start there!

Let's give it a go, working in breakout groups!



Review of Principle 1: Assessment guides improvement in learning and teaching

These are just a couple of the questions you could ask about Principle 1. They are deceptively simple! (Books have been written about the topics.)

- ▶ *How do we use assessment information to improve learning?*
- ▶ *How much do students know about where they are in their learning and what they need to do next? How do we know?*

You have **10 minutes** to work with your breakout group to discuss these questions.



Thoughts?

▶ Who wants to talk?



Do we have time for another discussion?

Let's take one of the discussion starters from the **PPP Companion Guide**. It feels very straightforward, but answers can illuminate fundamental misunderstandings and possible gaps in policies and practices.

▶ *What worries me/us about assessment?*

You have **10 minutes** to work with your breakout group to discuss this question, if we have time. If not, it's a good starter for group discussions back in your work place.

To recap...

- ▶ The vision of the **Assessment PPP** and its **Companion Guide** is to help unleash the power of assessment to transform the lives of our learners.
- ▶ **Dive into the documents!** There's no right way to do it. Use them to generate discussion and improvements in your policies and practices.

