
Activity 2: Avoiding Test Bias

This activity will help you answer the essential question:

How can bias in assessment be avoided?

Activity 2: How Can Bias in Assessment be Avoided?

This activity should be completed in groups of three or more.

Choose three assessments that are administered to students in your classroom, school, and/or district. Individually, consider whether or not bias is present in each assessment by addressing each of the items in the table on the following page. Be certain to highlight those items that yield a “No” answer. Following your evaluation of the tests, work as a group to address the following:

1. Was bias present in any of the assessment items you reviewed?
2. What needs to be done to correct the items?
3. How can you avoid test bias in future assessments?
4. What could be the harm to your students if you don't address the issue of avoiding test bias?
5. Compare the results of your reviews with other group members. Did you agree? Disagree? On which test items. Discuss your differences and come to a consensus regarding whether or not each item is biased and if it is biased – why?
6. Why is doing this type of bias review more effective if a group of teachers works together to review a test – rather than one individual?

Bias Review: Are there <i>any</i> test items that:	Test 1		Test 2		Test 3	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Contain language that is not commonly used or has different connotations in different parts of the state or country, or in different cultural or gender groups?						
Portray anyone in a stereotypical manner?						
Contain any demeaning or offensive materials?						
Have any religious references?						
Have references that mean different things to different cultures?						
Assume that all students come from the same socioeconomic or family background?						
Contain information or ideas that are unique to the culture of one group AND this information or idea is not part of the content standards?						
Measure membership in a group more than measure a content objective?						
Put up barriers preventing any group of students from demonstrating their knowledge and abilities?						
Portray a group unfavorably or in a stereotypical manner?						
Contain language or symbolism that can be interpreted in an offensive or emotionally charged way to a person or group?						