**Design of Interim Assessments**

**Interim Assessments:**

* Formal written assessments that take place every 6-8 weeks
* Start from the “end-goal” assessment
* Assess to “college ready standards”

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**Step 1: Begin with an analysis of the “end-goal” assessment**

* Types of questions (multiple choice, short response, essay, etc.)
* Format and length of assessment

**Step 2: Determine the content, skills, standards to be assessed for each interim assessment**

* Since interim assessments are designed to be given every 6-8 weeks, create a “calendar” of the content, skills, standards to be assessed for each interim over the course of the year
* Effective assessments revisit material from earlier in the year; determine which content, skills, standards should be repeatedly assessed over the course of time

**Step 3: Develop an assessment blueprint**

* What types of items should be included for each interim and in what proportion?
* How will those items align to the content, skills, standards to be assessed?
* What is the length of the assessment?

**Step 4: Determine cut-points**

* What is the level of proficiency? Will other levels need to be determined?

**Step 5: Select or develop items**

* If high quality items or assessments are available, it is best to use those
* Use lesser quality items or assessments and modify those to match the rigor and format that are required by the design
* Design as many questions as possible, then select the “best” items to match the blueprint

**Step 6: Administer assessment**

**Step 7: Analyze assessment results**

* In addition to analyzing for student achievement, determine if the assessment “behaved” as anticipated
  + Item difficulty: Were some items too hard? Too easy? Should they be revised?
  + Bias: Were items easier for some groups than others? (i.e. males vs. females)