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# Designing Score Reports to Maximize Validity and Instructional Utility

*Karen Barton & Audra Kosh*



Validity is about trust and utility.

It is a balance between purpose, defensibility,  
and the decisions to be made.

# Validity in the Balance

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## Why measure anything?

“We assess for two reasons:

- (1) to gather evidence to inform instructional decisions and
- (2) to encourage students to try to learn” (Stiggins, 2008, p.3)

## From “purpose” and intention to decisions and consequences:

- What are the instructional decisions to be made?
- Who will be making those decisions?
- What information will help them make good decisions?
- *What are the consequences?*

Thomas Kuhn's  
Theory Laden Perspective  
And the Impact on  
2-Way Communications

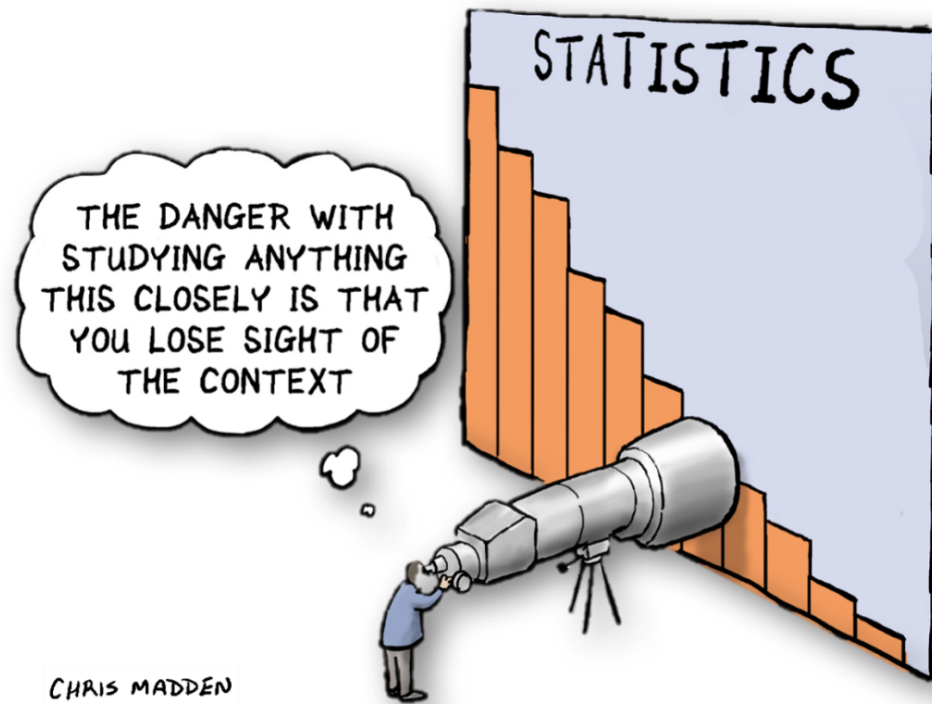




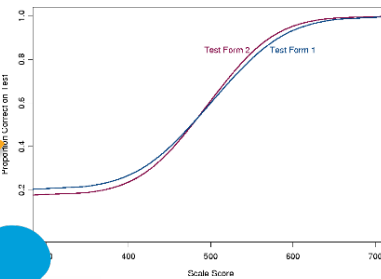
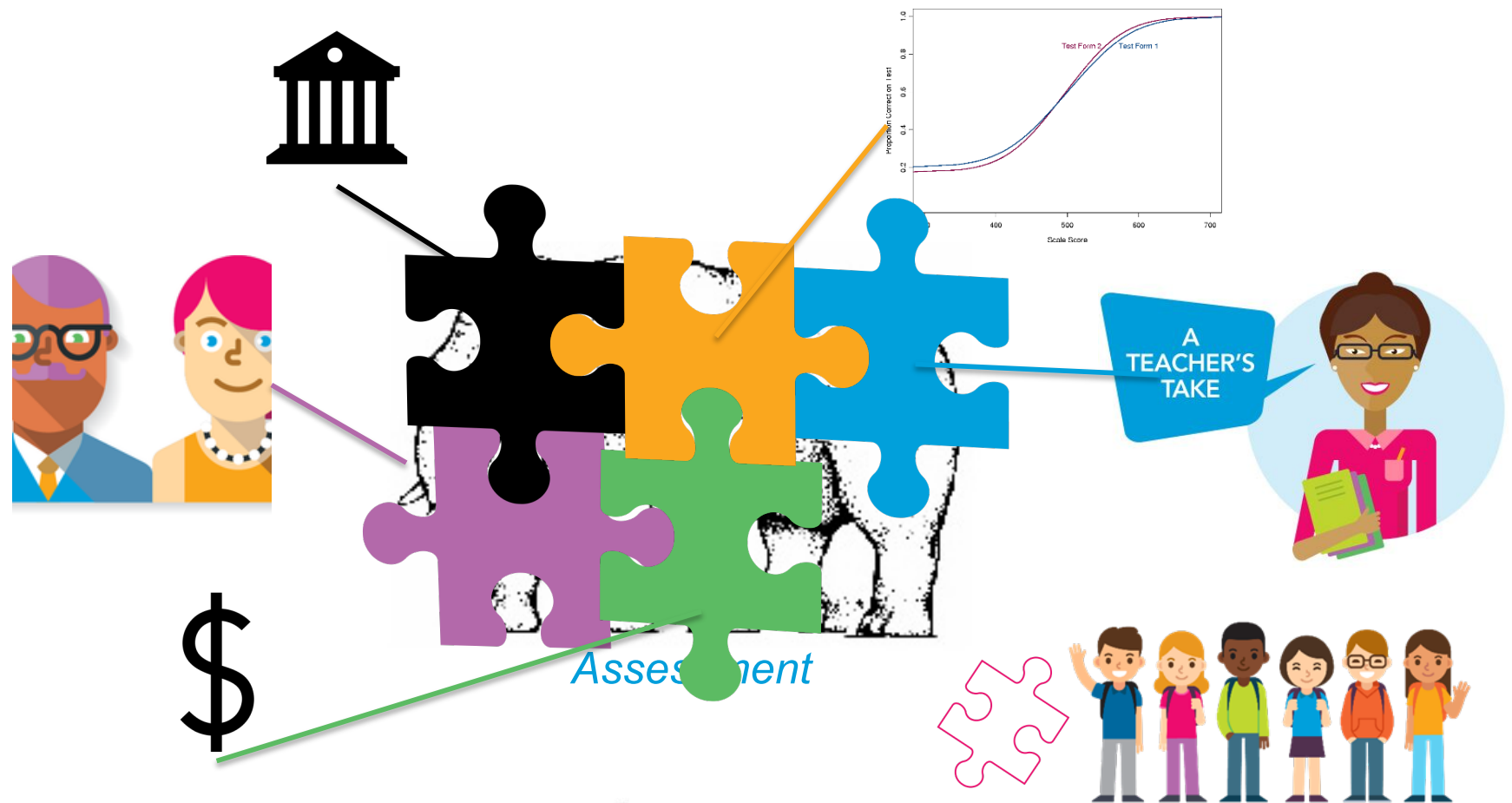


# How close are we?

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# Paradoxical Perspectives





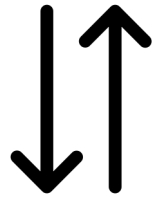
# Validity in the Balance

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According to the Standards (2014):

**Test score reporting** is a developer responsibility.

*providing the information*

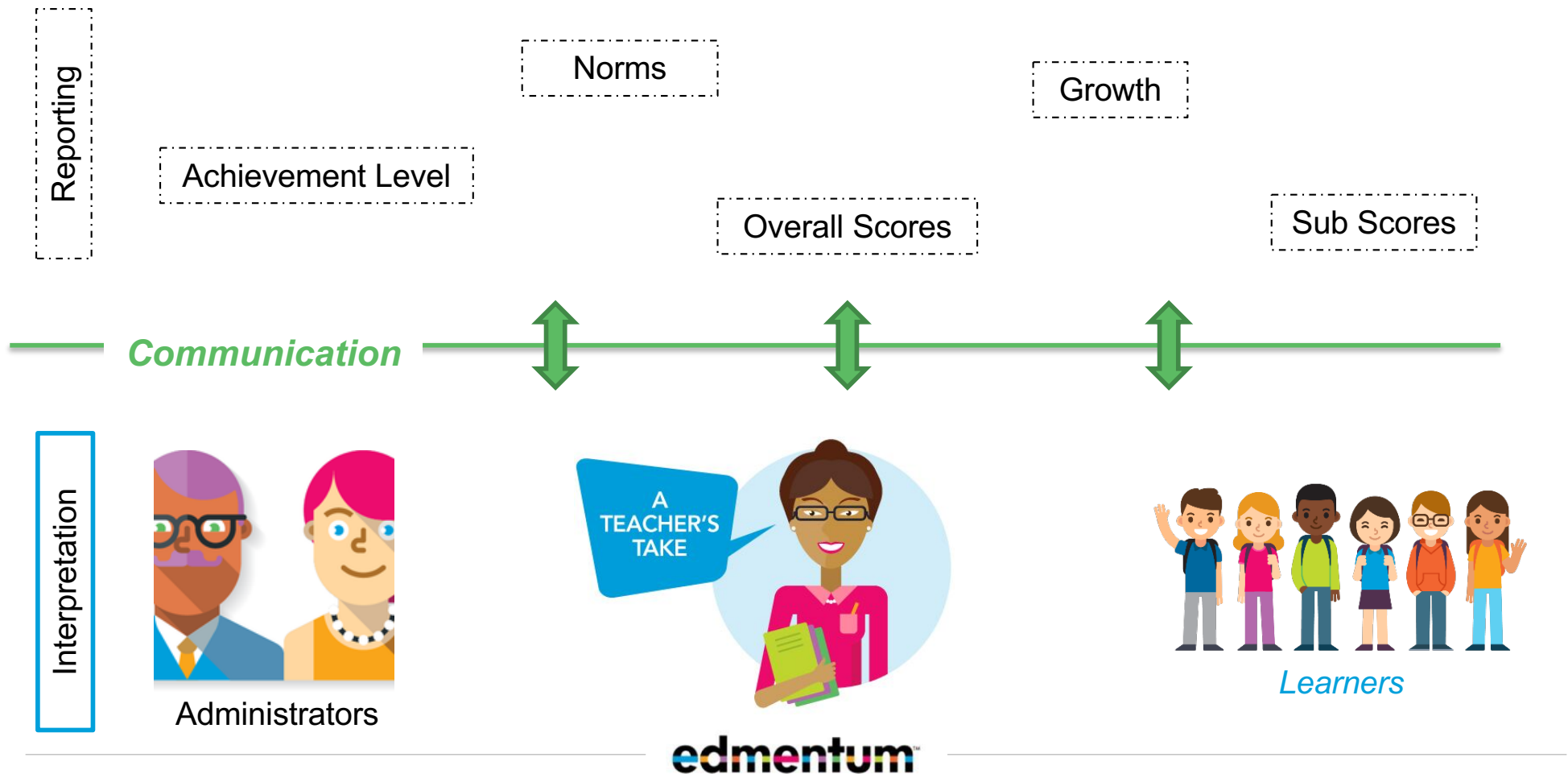


**Interpretation** is the test user responsibility.

*understanding, communicating and making decisions*

To increase validity of reporting requires attending to information and how it is communicated, as well as greater awareness of context, decisions, and consequences.

# The Role of Communication in Validity



# Perspectives and Communication

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# Educator First Approach

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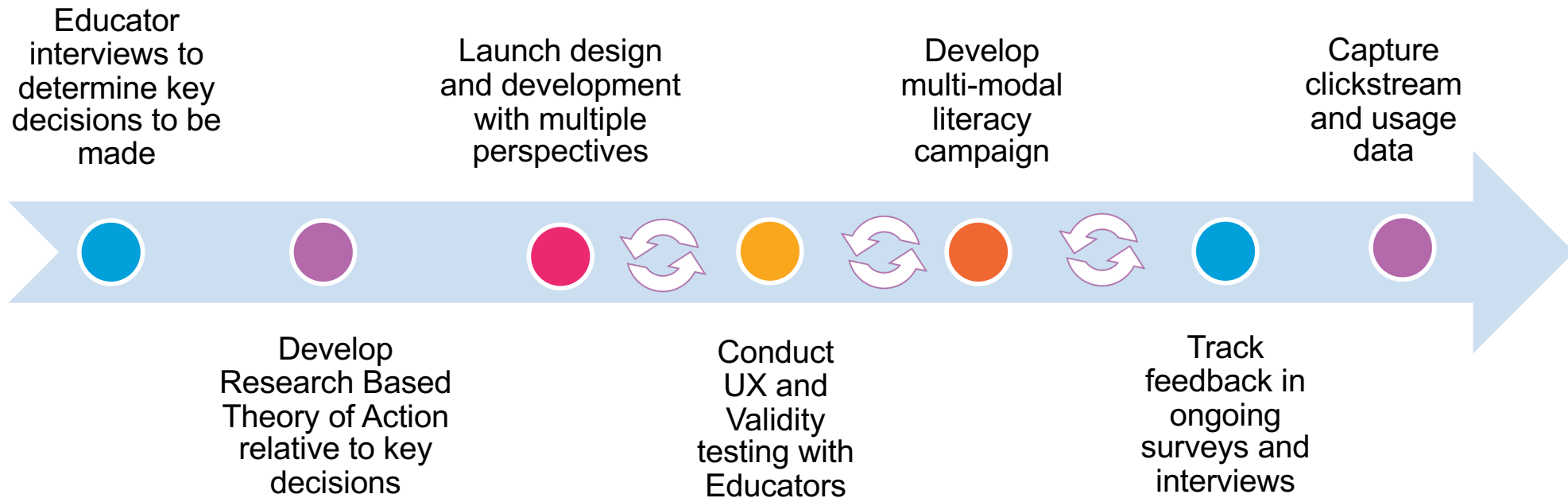
## Prior research and guidance

- Principled approach (Lewis, 2019)
- Design recommendations (Zenisky & Hambleton, 2012)

## Key elements

- Validity of the design, not just the information
- Reliability or consistency of the interpretations
- Literacy of the information conveyed
- Transparency
- Ease of use
- Actionable

# Educator First Workflow Example



# Usability vs Validity Testing

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	Usability	Validity
<b>Driver</b>	UI/UX	Research
<b>Format</b>	Focus Group	Individual Educators
<b>Tasks</b>	Open feedback, prompting questions	Locate information, true/false questions
<b>Interaction</b>	Highly conversational	Mostly listening



# Usability Testing

Select a score to see more information on subject and diagnostic specific diagnostic scores.

**Mathematics**  
Testing Window 3  
**742**  
National Percentile Rank: 42nd  
[Reset Diagnostic](#)

**Reading**  
For Testing Window 3  
**835**  
National Percentile Rank: 72nd  
[Reset Diagnostic](#)

**Language Arts**  
For Testing Window 3  
**905**  
National Percentile Rank: 71st  
[Reset Diagnostic](#)

**All Diagnostic Scores** ⓘ What does this mean?

See diagnostic scores, growth, and national percentile ranks (NPR) for all subjects. Select a diagnostic to see more.

**Math** ⓘ Academic Year 2018 - 2019 ⓘ

Diagnostic Scale Sub-Range

Diagnostic 1	Diagnostic 2	Diagnostic 3	Diagnostic 4
Aug 15, 2018	Dec 15, 2018	Feb 23, 2019	Apr 13, 2019
Score: 700 +/- 30	735 +/- 30	742 +/- 30	No Data
Growth: n/a	35	7	No Data
NPR: 38th	40th	42nd	No Data

**Reading** ⓘ Academic Year 2018 - 2019 ⓘ

**Chat Messages** ⓘ 01:11:59 ⓘ

What is expected growth? Ideal growth?

01:19:15

formative feedback / goal setting module

01:20:03

I like that idea to have a goal planning! I was thinking the same thing :)

01:30:34

total time student spends is important

01:36:30

thanks for your comment

01:36:37

keep them coming!

01:39:53

why is a student given a higher grade question if he did not score correctly on the lower grade level question?

01:40:20

01:08:31 / 02:18:24

Speed

# Applying Feedback

Mrs. Loredo's S1 Class Results

"I want to sort the class by domain"

Student Name

Class Averages

"Could you color code this?"

Diagnostic 3 - Mrs. Loredo's S1 Class Results



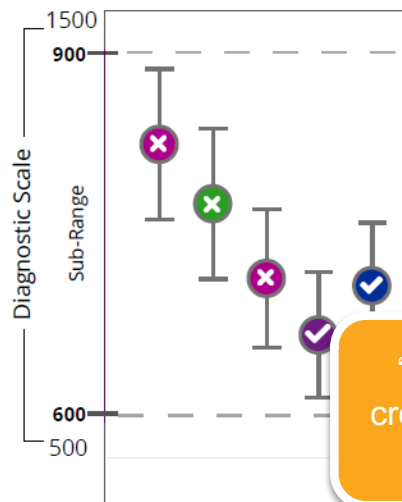
Diagnostic 3 - Mrs. Loredo's S1 Class Results

Student Name	Grade	Growth	Score	NPR									Lowest LPEG
					Learning Path Entry Grade (LPEG) by Domain								
Brewer, James	3	-1	705	42nd	3	1	3	2	2	3	4	1	
Carlson, Gerald	3	-2	660	35th	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	
Dixon, Jenna	3	5	752	48th	4	3	3	4	3	3	5	3	
Garrett, Catherine	3	-8	645	36th	3	2	3	2	1	K	1	K	
Miller, Terry	3	8	720	40th	4	3	4	5	3	3	5	3	
Reinhardt, Amy	3	8	755		4	3	4	4	4	3	5	2	
Rogers, Donald	3	0	735		4	3	3	4	3	3	5	3	

# Applying Feedback

Misconception  
that the test  
adapts within

## Diagnostic 3 Items



Start: Feb 22, 2019, 8:05 AM

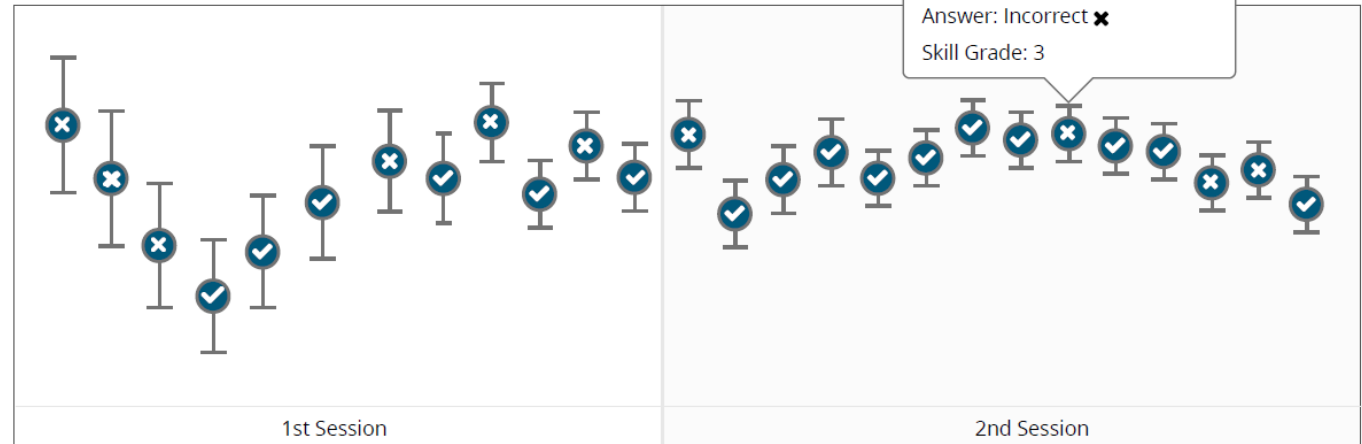
Total Number of Items: 29

● = Field Testing Item: Does not

## Diagnostic 3 Items

Correct Answer = ✓ Incorrect Answer = ✗

Diagnostic Scale (500 - 1500)



Start: Feb 22, 2019, 8:05 AM

Total Number of Items: 28\*

End: Feb 23, 2019, 10:05 AM

Total Time: 48 min.

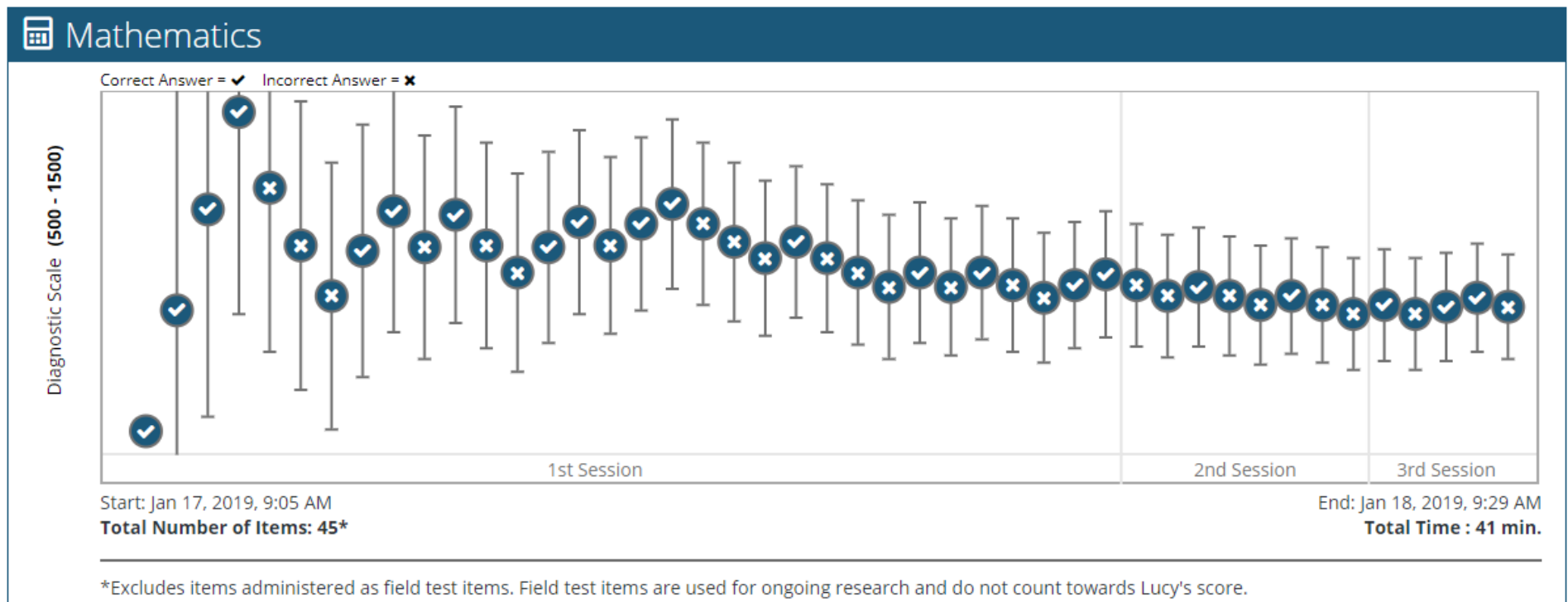
\*Excludes items administered as field test items. Field test items are used for ongoing research and do not count towards Jessica's score.

# The Final Design

## Mathematics Diagnostic 2 Experience

[Learn More](#)

Hover over each item from Lucy's diagnostic test to reveal information about the domain, time on item, correct/incorrect response, and skill grade level. Notice how the estimate of Lucy's mathematics ability bounces up and down and the confidence bars tighten as the test narrows in on Lucy's precise mathematics ability.



# In-Product Support

## Mathematics Diagnostic 2 Experience

[Learn More](#)

Hover over each item from Lucy's diagnostic test to reveal information about the domain, time on item, correct/incorrect response, and skill grade level. Notice how the estimate of Lucy's mathematics ability bounces up and down and the confidence bars tighten as the test narrows in on Lucy's precise mathematics ability.

Mathematics

Diagnostic Scale (500 - 1500)

Correct Answer = 5

Start: Jan 17, 2019

Total Number of Items: 10

\*Excludes items

Mathematics Diagnostic Experience - Learn More

**Item:** An individual question.

**Time on item:** The amount of time a student spent on each item. If time on item is only several seconds for many items, this may indicate the score is invalid and that the student was simply clicking through quickly and not trying to answer the questions. Consider talking with the student about their effort on the diagnostic and potentially having the student retake the diagnostic.

[Guide to the Student Summary Report](#)

[Video: How does a computer adaptive diagnostic test work?](#)

Close

3rd Session

Jan 18, 2019, 9:29 AM

Total Time : 41 min.

# Validity Testing Results

Correct interpretation with ease	Correct interpretation with struggle	Incorrect interpretation
✓	—	✗

Report	Concept Assessed	Educator A	Educator B	Educator C	Educator D	Educator E
Student Report	National Percentile Rank	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
	CAT Visual right/wrong indicators	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
	Growth (to get to certain NPR)	—	✗	—	✓	—
	Zoomed-in view of scale		✗	✓	✓	✓
	SEM	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
	Skill-level raw score information	✓		✓	✗	✓
	Growth (gain score)	—	✗	✓	✗	✗
	CAT Visual (domain color coding)	—	✓	✓	✓	
	CAT Visual (number of test sessions)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	CAT Visual (adaptive nature)	—	✗	✓	✗	✓
	CAT Visual (SEM)	✓	✗	—	✗	✗
Class Report	High/low overall students	✓	✓	✗	✓	—
	Learning Path Entry Grade by domain	—	✗	✓	✓	✓
	Growth	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
	Learning Path Entry Grade Overall	✓	✓	—	—	—
	Scale Score Standard Deviation	—	✗	✗	—	✓
	National percentile rank	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓



# Educating and Strengthening Receivers

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Technical  
Documents



Blogs,  
Marketing,  
Messaging



Videos



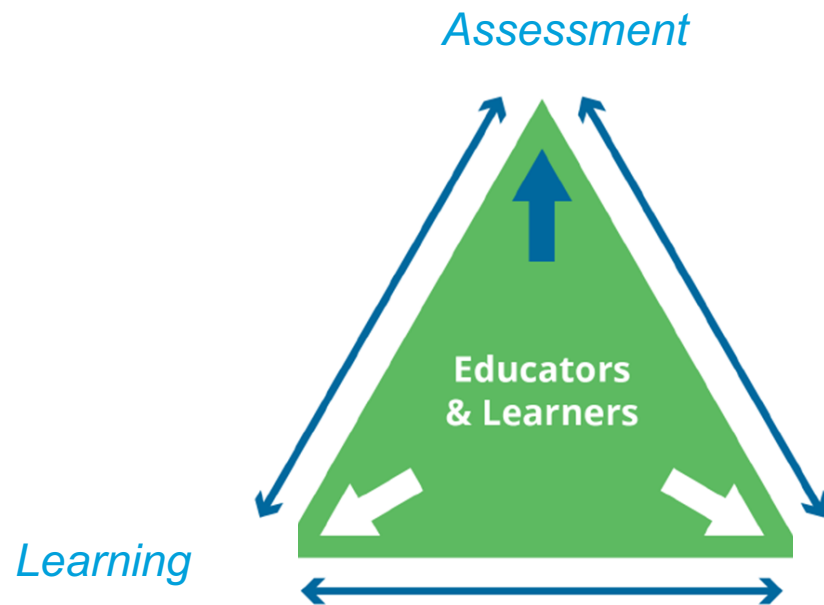
Training  
Professional  
Development



In Product  
Support

# Triangulation and Context in Reporting

Measures of Growth, beyond a single metric.



# Who is the ultimate stakeholder?

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How might reports go even further by encouraging student agency and building communications between students and teachers?



# Purpose to Impact

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- Consider purpose in context
- Establish trust and transparency
- Increasing literacy and impact of actions during testing
- Don't overestimate utility – *ask*
- Don't underestimate responsibility – *go beyond*

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*“You can have brilliant ideas  
(or psychometrics and assessment designs),  
but if you can't get them across,  
your ideas won't get you anywhere.”  
~Lee Iacocca*

Be Valid – Be Useful