

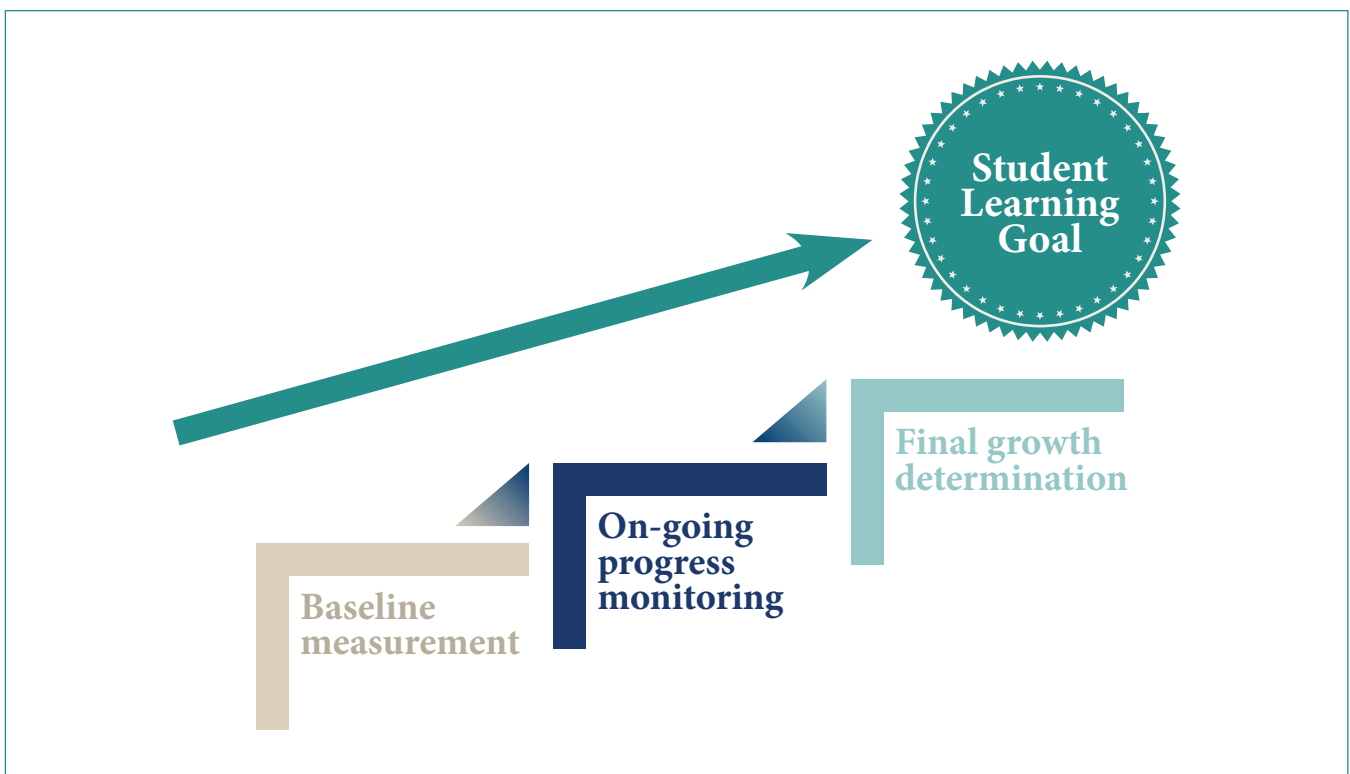
Designing an Evidence-Centered Approach to Estimating Student Growth in Non-tested Courses

in partnership with



The San Antonio Independent School District partnered with Lyons Assessment Consulting to lead the development of a high-quality Student Learning Goal (SLG) system for capturing estimates of student growth in non-tested grades and subjects as part of the district's educator evaluation system. Dr. Susan Lyons collaborated with Dr. Jeri Thompson, a Senior Associate at the Center for Assessment, to design an approach based on locally-developed learning progressions and classroom assessments.

Figure 1. Locally-developed learning progressions serve as the backbone instruction and assessment



Once the system had been designed in collaboration with the district, Susan and Jeri led the academic departmental coordinators through a series of three workshops in which they developed district-wide SLGs for the most common non-tested courses in their respective departments. The workshops engaged the departmental leaders in the following activities, each with its own set of quality criteria:

1. Identifying the learning goal

Criteria:

- Identifies the specific knowledge and skills that students will learn
- Identifies how students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills
- Focuses on the central idea and essential concepts that span across an entire course and/or multiple units
- Expects the highest level of cognitive rigor appropriate for the course

2. Articulating the planned progression of learning

Criteria:

- Representative of how students develop within the domain
- Includes both content knowledge and skills
- Asset-based language that is written clearly enough for students and teachers to interpret consistently

3. Providing classroom assessment guidance

Criteria:

- Aligned to the content knowledge and skills identified in the learning goal
- Aligned to the expected level of cognitive rigor for the learning goal
- Allows for all students to have access and opportunity to demonstrate their learning
- Evidence of learning can be evaluated using the descriptions provided in the learning progression



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