

Considerations When Comparing Statewide Assessment Scores

A TSA overall score for a program is shown as a percentage. When comparing the scores of two or more programs in a school/district or when comparing a single program's score with the statewide score, there are several variables to consider when interrupting the score/score differences. For example,

- ❖ Number of program sites being compared
- ❖ Number of students being tested (consider also gender and grade level)
- ❖ Number of students with special needs/accommodation requirements
- ❖ Newness of the program's technical standards
- ❖ Teacher turnover (consider also background and experience)
- ❖ Teacher commitment to the TSAs (i.e., Are teachers getting involved in writing and reviewing the assessment items? Do the assessment item banks sufficiently match the domain percentages of the Blueprint for Instruction and Assessment?)

Try this exercise:

1. Go to the Technical Skills Assessment Dashboard and the Reports tab and look up your district/school's program results. Compare your scores to the overall statewide score. Is it higher, lower, or the same?
2. Do some research. Review your program(s) score in relationship to the variables listed above and others you may think of.
3. Consider future professional development needs relative to the scores and variables, i.e., sharing practices with others whose scores are higher, getting involved in the development of assessment items, paying closer attention to accommodations of special population students, etc.