



Conversation Guide

Webinar Series - Supporting Student Learning through MFWHSR

Assessment: By
Outcome, By Student

Mike Garrow and Alexandra Lambert - H. J. Cody High School

This session describes a High School's journey in undergoing a paradigm shift from traditional assessment to successfully implementing a collaborative and outcome-based practice. Participants will leave the session with examples and ideas on how to implement an outcome-based program and school-wide systematic approaches that support high levels of learning for all students.

We invite you to use this conversation guide along with this presentation to engage in a dialogue about innovative high school practice.

Consider using this recording with staff, parents and/or students. What might be some of the outcomes you would highlight as you consider these different audiences?

Moving Forward with High School Redesign is about more than simply shifting a timetable. It's about shifting mindsets. The shift in mindset to a focus on student-centered learning happens as a number of key practices are put in place, including personalizing learning, intentionally developing meaningful relationships, creating rigorous and relevant learning opportunities, and supporting mastery learning. Schools that are focused on innovative, collaborative, comprehensive, and meaningful learning opportunities, are showing evidence of increasing student engagement and success.

Key Understandings:

- It is critical for staff to use assessment data to guide and improve professional practice.
- Outcomes Based Assessment makes student strengths and weaknesses visible in proximity to the learning target.
- Outcomes Based Assessment helps students to understand that learning is a process, not a task or a checklist. Students become engaged in the learning process and will seek feedback to master the outcomes.
- Staff collaboration is a key component to shifting assessment practices.
- Intentional systemic support is essential to align school goals, instructional leadership goals, and learning community goals.

Questions for Discussion:

- Discuss why Assessment is an important consideration in Moving Forward with High School Redesign work.
- In the webinar, Mike states that staff work to understand that their role is not about 'my students' but rather, about 'all of our students'. Discuss the distinction and its impact on collaborative cultures.
- Instructional Leaders have the greatest impact when they are in classrooms. Reflect on Instructional Leadership in your current context.
- Staff meetings at H. J. Cody start with professional reading and conversations as well as sharing successes pertaining to staff goals. How are staff meetings structured in your building and how might they be improved to enhance professional learning and collaboration?