

Did they learn? Assessment of concept mastery

The next level of assessment is answering the question of whether students learned the lesson intended by the intervention. A principle of classical education is that the most valid and equitable tests for understanding are standardized tests (Thorndyke, 1918). Multiple-choice tests, are the most common form of standardized tests. They are not vulnerable to charges of subjective interpretation of results.

To the degree that social-emotional competency includes a knowledge base that is grounded in science, standardized tests are a valid measure of memory, comprehension, and mental ability to logically apply a basic principle to a concrete situation in these areas as well.

Ripple Effects includes direct, objective, standardized assessment of the particular content *for each lesson in each lesson*, and identifies these built-in evaluations as core components of the intervention. More than 700 such micro-assessments of concept mastery are included in the series of programs. Every tutorial includes at least one. These assessment tools utilize multiple choice, matching, and true false questions in the form of interactive games, as a method of assessing concept mastery. These short quizzes check for understanding of three things: factual information about the topics selected, basic concepts related to social emotional learning, and conceptual ability to apply those concepts in practical situations.

