



Fast and Practical Formative Assessment with LearningStation

An Evaluation of LS Test Builder in Kansas Schools

➔ Question

How can teachers use LS Test Builder quickly and easily to formatively assess their students' mastery of standards-based material and modify daily instruction to address student needs?

➔ Background

LS Test Builder has been available statewide in Kansas since fall 2005 through a partnership between LearningStation and Kan-ed, the state-wide network. Between 2005 and 2006, teachers in Kansas increased their use of LS Test Builder by **2300%**.

During the 2006-2007 school year:

- **100,000 tests** were taken online by students using LS Test Builder
- **22,000 tests** were created by teachers

In order to understand this significant and unprecedented increase in use, LearningStation asked Interactive, Inc. to test the ability of Kansas teachers to use LS Test Builder in creating, assigning and sharing standards-based formative assessments in reading, math and science. All participants were classroom teachers in public or private schools in the state of Kansas and all test items were aligned with Kansas learning standards.

➔ Results

Using LearningStation's LS Test Builder, an e-learning tool that enables standards-aligned formative assessment, teachers were able to create state standards-aligned reading tests for students in **less than four minutes** and tests for math and science in half that time. Regular users of LS Test Builder were able to accomplish the same tasks even more quickly: reading tests took **less than three minutes**, math tests took **two minutes** and science tests took **less than a minute and a half**.

➔ Grading LS Test Builder

At the end of the teachers' interaction with LS Test Builder each was asked to evaluate LS Test Builder's value as a formative assessment tool and to give the product a letter grade. The median teacher gave the product an "**A**," 4.0 on a 4-point scale.

With simple, easy access to timely student performance data, teachers are more equipped than ever to refine and target their instruction. Here's what teachers had to say about LS Test Builder:

- **"It's simple;** it takes out the guess work."
- **"I love it.** It makes it easy to choose the right questions."

The majority of teachers who participated in the study specifically mentioned LS Test Builder's ease of use, a quality also highlighted in a previous LearningStation customer survey. Teachers also emphasized the importance of assessment within their classrooms:

- 75% of the responding Kansas teachers rated assessment as “very important” to their classroom instruction.
- 40% reported using assessment at least weekly if not more frequently.
- More than 60% of the classroom teacher respondents praised LS Test Builder for giving them **access to assessment data**.

In the survey, administrators commented on student assessment and their experiences with LS Test Builder:

- 89% of the Kansas central office administrators who responded to the survey said that assessment is “very important” to their schools.
- 54% of both administrators and teachers credited LearningStation's suite of products, including LS Test Builder, with making a **positive impact** on student achievement. One central office administrator noted the tool's “easy connection between assessment needs and re-teaching websites.”
- 45% of district administrators said **LearningStation saves them money**.

For a full version of the study, please visit
www.learningstation.com/testbuilderreport

About LearningStation

LearningStation, a leading provider of customized e-learning tools for K-12 classrooms, connects administrators, teachers, parents, and students to maximize the digital classroom and improve student achievement. Schools use LearningStation's innovative solutions to evaluate and address individual student needs with LS Test Builder, a standards-aligned formative assessment and integrated instruction tool; communicate with students and families through LS Teacher Pages, an easy-to-use Web site creation tool; store and share files simply and securely online with the Education Backpack; and engage students with integrated online content that fits seamlessly into class assignments. LearningStation has been honored by several groups in the learning industry for its significant contributions to the growth of education technology. For more information about LearningStation and its solutions, please visit www.learningstation.com.

About Interactive, Inc.

Interactive, Inc. is a “gold standard” evaluator listed on the US Department of Education's *Registry of Outcomes Evaluators*. For more information, please visit www.interactiveinc.org.