

## Overview of the Teaching is The Core Grant

The primary purpose of the TiTC Grant is to improve the quality of local assessments that are currently in use, while simultaneously reducing the number of local assessments that are perceived not to inform instruction.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) recognizes that:

- The assessment of student learning is integral to instruction when it provides an accurate source of feedback to guide educator instruction, student learning activities, and decision-making.
- Instructional objectives are best supported when students interact with multiple assessment strategies, that is, various forms of assessment that deviate from traditional, fill-in-the-blank methods.
- While testing is an important part of the instructional cycle and necessary to monitor student academic progress and contribute to decisions at the classroom, school, district, and state levels, the amount of testing should be the minimum necessary to inform effective decision-making.
- Assessment results should be used only as one of multiple measures of progress, and assessments should reflect our instructional priorities.

The Grant aims to support districts as they work to:

1. determine which assessments support the instructional goals of the district/charter school/consortium;
2. determine an appropriate action plan that will minimize unnecessary assessment and increase the use of diverse and quality assessment practices by developing or selecting new assessments if possible;
3. use diversified assessment strategies, including a review of local assessments for all purposes, including annual professional performance review, APPR;
4. establish a professional development program that will aid teachers in identifying high-quality assessments and improving assessment practices.