Utilizing a Benchmark Formative Assessment to Predict Academic Achievement in a Rural School System

By

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Abstract

The focus of this study was to analyze a benchmark formative assessment (4Sight) that predicts how students will perform on the annual Pennsylvania, USA exam that is given in grades three through eight inclusive and 11. Correlation analysis reported a significant positive linear relationship between students' performance in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exam and each of the 4Sight exams. Also the authors found significant correlations between PSSA performance by gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and grade levels. The research revealed significant differences in the average scores and student grade level, ethnicity, and socio-economic status. This study shows significant gains in student scores and the results clearly support the use of the 4Sight Benchmark Assessment. Not only will 4Sight assist school stakeholders in pinpointing academic achievement, it may also help determine a course of action for staff professional development efforts and spending practices to continue formative benchmark assessments.

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