

Identifying Essential Learning Targets

The first step that any teacher or learning team must take to create the time and space necessary to move from a culture of grading to a culture of feedback is to identify a handful of priorities for each unit in the required curriculum. Use this handout—combined with evidence from school, district, and state performance assessments—to identify and prioritize a manageable set of essential learning targets for each unit of study.

Name of Unit: _____

Required Content or Skill Objective (from state or district curriculum guides)		
Does this learning target directly support the mission of our school or our shared vision of quality instruction?	Yes	No
Does this learning target cover knowledge or skills that will be new to our students, valuable to their continued studies, or important long after they've left school?	Yes	No
Is there any evidence in school curriculum guides or recent assessments that our students have been exposed to this learning target in previous years?	Yes	No
Is there any evidence in school curriculum guides or recent assessments that our students have mastered this learning target in previous years?	Yes	No
Is this learning target addressed in other content areas or grade levels?	Yes	No
Will mastering this learning target help our students excel in other content areas or grade levels? If so, which ones?	Yes	No
Would you recommend that we include this learning target on our list of essential outcomes for this unit?	Yes	No
Final thoughts on this learning target: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 300px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>		