

Performance Assessment

Guiding Question:

How can authentic demonstrations of learning and thoughtful grading practices help build students’ intrinsic motivation and disrupt patterns of inequity?

Capstones, portfolio defenses, and passage presentations are opportunities for students to show what they know and make sense of their own learning. These are also tremendously rewarding events for the school community—moments to celebrate students as individuals and affirm the shared values of the school.

Step 1 – Research

Explore the examples from Oakland Unified School District, EL Education, and Envision Learning Partners. Use the table below to take notes on what you see, with these guiding questions:

- What are your key takeaways from these examples?
- How might similar demonstrations of learning fit within the culture of your school, advance your goals for student learning, and open doors to equity and culturally responsive learning?
- Can you identify other practices or examples you’d like to share with your team?

Step 2 – Reflect

Share your thoughts and takeaways with your team and discuss these questions:

- Which aspects of the Oakland, EL, and Envision examples are particularly appealing?
- What other examples and ideas might we look to for inspiration?
- What might a meaningful demonstration of learning might look like in your school? Brainstorm a practice you’d like to try, being as clear as you can about what, when, and how to make this work well for students, teachers, and other members of the school community.

Examples	Key Takeaways	Inspirational Ideas
Oakland Unified School District		
EL Education		
Envision Learning Partners		
Other practices and examples		

Brainstorm: A Practice to Try in Our School

What?	When?	How?