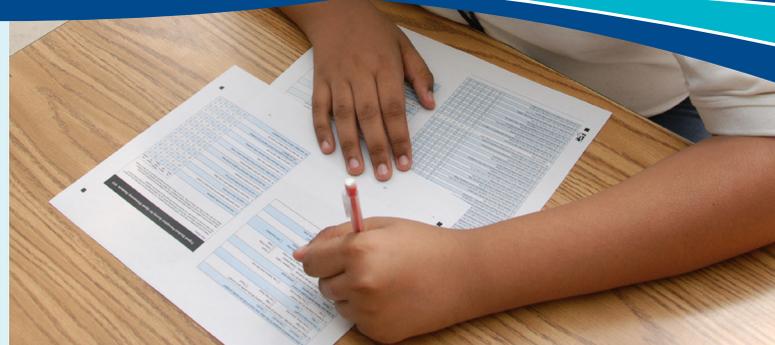


Tripod Survey Assessments

- Why do some classrooms produce much more learning than others, even with similar students?
- What aspects of teaching practice make some teachers more effective at helping students learn?
- How can student observations and experiences be used as a valid component of teacher evaluation?



Tripod assessments gather feedback about classroom teaching and student engagement with unique measures that generate actionable insights on these and other important questions.

What is Tripod?

Tripod is a research-based, classroom level data collection, analysis and reporting system that measures classroom effectiveness. Measuring multiple domains of teaching practice, the Tripod Survey Assessments provide insights about teaching effectiveness and the determinants of student performance. Tripod activities are grounded in a comprehensive conceptual framework that emphasizes the importance of an instructional “tripod” of content knowledge, pedagogical skill and relationships.

Tripod Survey Assessments comprise:

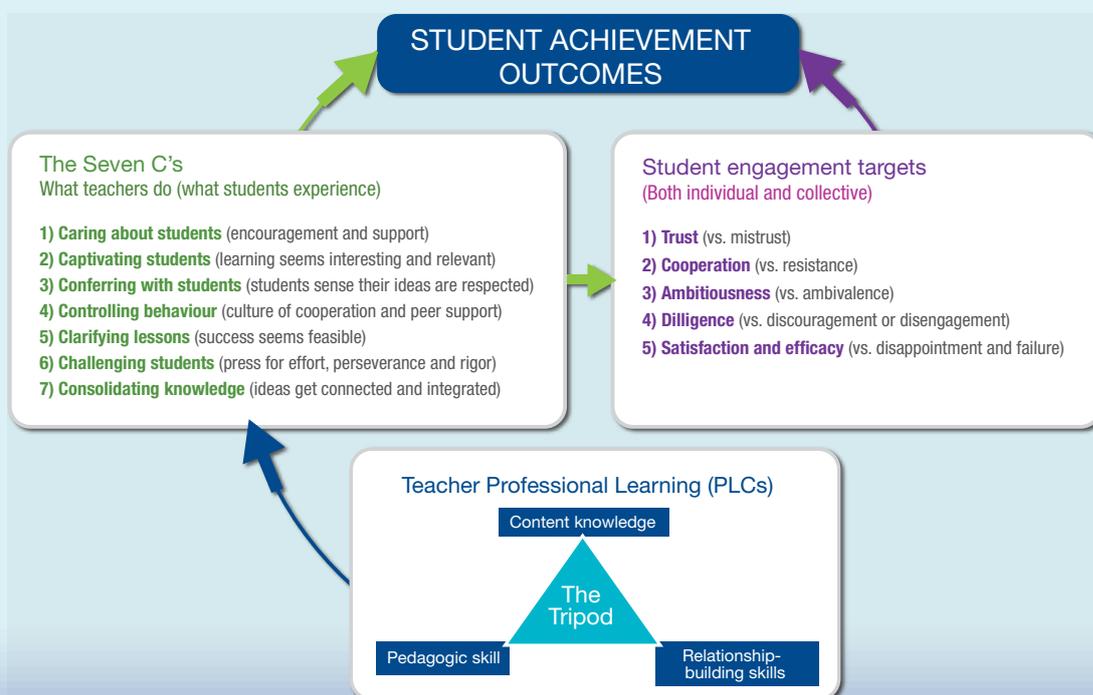
- Student surveys on teaching quality and student engagement, tailored for grade levels K-2, 3-5 and 6-12
- Teacher self-assessment surveys focused on pedagogy, teacher-student relations and working conditions
- Teacher school-assessment surveys on leadership and professional learning conditions

Why Use Student Surveys?

Classroom observations have often been the primary, or even the sole, method of acquiring teacher-specific information about K-12 instruction. But no observer, no matter how well trained, has more first-hand experience than the students in any particular classroom. Tripod student survey assessments are designed to capture key dimensions of classroom life and teaching practice as students experience them, first-hand in real time.

What do Student Surveys Measure?

Tripod student surveys use a suite of multi-item indicators that capture students’ academic and social behaviors, goals, beliefs and feelings. Student engagement and achievement are conceptually and empirically predicted by seven multi-item measures covering key domains of teaching effectiveness referred to as the 7Cs.



Delivered by Cambridge Education

The Tripod Project was founded a decade ago by Dr. Ronald Ferguson of Harvard University. Since 2007, the Project has been supported through a partnership between Dr. Ferguson and Cambridge Education, well known globally for school quality reviews and other school improvement services. Cambridge Education is a leading provider of education services with over 25 years of experience working in more than 45 countries. In the United States it has partnered with over 2,500 schools in more than 200 districts across 25 states.

The Tripod Project research database is unsurpassed as it includes response data from hundreds of schools in every part of the country and in school districts representing urban, suburban and rural settings.

Tripod surveys provide reliable, detailed and validated insights on teaching and learning in any classroom, including classrooms not tested with standardized exams.

The support Cambridge Education provides includes:

- Project Management for survey customization, administration and data collection.
- Capacity Building to ensure clients develop the knowledge and skills necessary to sustain high quality implementation over time.
- Survey Data Management, including processing, quality assurance, analysis and reporting of survey results.
- Technical Assistance, from start to finish, initial orientation and ongoing support for state, district, and school personnel who coordinate the effective use of Tripod data at the local level.

When requested, Tripod researchers will provide “value-added” analyses to demonstrate how student responses predict year-to-year learning gains as measured by standardized test scores, thus helping to demystify the nature of teaching effectiveness.

Student survey responses are reported out to clients according to Tripod “quality values” across multiple dimensions. Quality scores are available at the classroom, school and district levels. Findings can inform discussions about school quality and whole-school priorities, and give a fresh new focus to teacher professional development and student engagement projects.

Tripod in Action

Tripod surveys and analysis methods have helped more than 500,000 students communicate their classroom experiences. Tripod assessments have been used in hundreds of schools and thousands of classrooms in the U.S., Canada, and China.



“We used the Tripod survey for 4 years at Ithaca High School. The data allowed us to look at our whole school as well as parts of the school such as grade levels or departments. School-wide professional development was organized around understanding the intellectual framework of the survey and how to use survey results to improve instruction. Over time more and more teachers requested their own classroom data because it gave them important information directly from students. We hired Cambridge Education staff developers to work with our staff on high yield teaching strategies and feedback strategies to engage and motivate learners. Rather than using a canned approach, the staff at Cambridge Education tailored their work specifically to what our school needed. I was impressed with their professionalism and responsiveness.”

Colleen Ledley, Principal,
South Hill Elementary, New York 2011

“We worked with Cambridge Education last spring to develop and administer [Tripod] surveys to over 5,000 students in four school districts. Our timeline was extremely tight, but we were able to meet our goals because of the extremely responsive staff at Cambridge Education. They were able to customize the survey and execute an administration plan within just a few months. They met our strict data security requirements and provided a final dataset that meet our needs. I look forward to working with them again this year.”

Corinne Herlihy, Project Director,
National Center for Teacher Effectiveness,
Harvard Graduate School of Education 2011



What Does Tripod Cost?

Costs vary depending on the scale of the survey deployment, level of customization, and nature of data analysis and reporting. Every effort is made to ensure that implementation is efficient, cost effective, and the highest practical utility. We are happy to provide specific price information tailored for your school, district or state, just call us.

Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Study

Tripod Student Survey Assessments are one of the tools featured in the Gates Foundation MET study of teaching quality. Using a sample of over 44,500 students, the results of the MET study in Dec 2010 and Jan 2012 reinforce a growing consensus that integrating student survey assessment results with high-quality observations and student gain-scores on achievement tests creates a much more valid and reliable teacher evaluation system compared to current standard practices.

