

# A tool for identifying principals' strengths and areas for growth

How can a school district identify baseline strengths and needs of their school leaders to guide the planning of targeted professional development? That question led researchers at the University of Washington to develop the Measures of Instructional Leadership Expertise (MILE) assessment.

The MILE assessment provides independent measures of a principal's expertise in observation and analysis, providing feedback to teachers, leading professional learning, and one crosscutting skill of adopting an inquiry stance in their leadership.

"The MILE is the only
assessment that I know
of that provides a valid
measure of proficiency
in specific instructional
leadership skills that matter
most to improving teaching
and learning."

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The MILE assessment process is simple and can be performed online from any location. Principals, coaches or other district leaders watch a segment of a videotaped classroom lesson and then respond to a series of questions about what they observed, what feedback they would give to the teacher, and what professional development they would recommend. Their responses are evaluated by specially trained instructional leaders using a rubric that was developed and validated by researchers at the University of Washington and Vanderbilt University.

#### **Uses for the MILE**

- Gather data to guide principal professional development.
- Screen applicants for instructional leadership roles.
- Gauge learning over time by establishing a baseline and conducting periodic reassessments.

## What the MILE assessment measures

Expertise in observing and analyzing instruction

Expertise in providing feedback to teachers

Expertise in orchestrating and supporting teachers' professional learning

Ability to adopt an inquiry stance in one's support of teachers

### **Detailed reports**

The MILE assessment provides detailed reports that differentiate practice within each measure along four levels.



#### Research-based

The research behind the MILE was:

- Completed at the University of Washington
   a Tier 1 research institution.
- Based on principles of adult learning.
- Grounded in best teaching practices.
- Corroborated by a panel of expert observers of instruction.

