



## Alignment of Assessments

Submitted by Tim Jarboe, Foothills Data Team Leader, and Mark Tavernier, Foothills Curriculum Team Leader

This month's issue of the CAI Newsletter focuses on assessment, specifically the ongoing work done by the Foothills Data and Curriculum Teams, led by **Tim Jarboe** and **Mark Tavernier**, respectively, 1) to establish a consistent cumulative assessment protocol for all sites, and 2) to align cumulative assessments and review packets with the required End of Course Tests (EOCs). These efforts are designed to ensure that the results students achieve on our module-based cumulative assessments—CAs—and review packets are good predictors of success on the EOCs. The very good news, according to **Foothills Regional Instructional Specialist Todd Nickelsen**, is that the correlations, in terms of the number of assessment items and weights, and level of rigor, are “exceptionally close” and are indeed very good predictors of how our students will perform on the EOCs.



The alignment procedures we have followed:

### OVERVIEW

This year, the Data Team has been doing a deep analysis of the components of Foothills' EOC Preparation Strategies to ensure the materials align with the GA EOC assessments. It has been a process with multiple stages:

1. Quantify the correlation between the individual student CA (Cumulative Assessment) scores that are administered at the end of each EOC course and the actual individual student EOC scores. This ensures that the CA Assessments are aligned with the EOC assessments.

*Continued on page 2...*

## Message from the Superintendent

With all of the outside issues and concerns we have to focus on over the past year, it is indeed gratifying to be able to turn our attention back to where it should be: on the great work being done by Foothills staff and students every day. This month's issue of the Curriculum Assessment & Instruction Newsletter shines a spotlight on the amazing work in the area of assessment, specifically in looking at the validity and relevance of our cumulative assessments and review packets, to ensure that they are closely aligned to, and strong predictors of success on, the End of Course Tests taken by all of our students.

We are so fortunate to have remarkably talented, knowledgeable, and dedicated people, like Scott Gordon, Tim Jarboe, Mark Tavernier, Amy Perry, and Todd Nickelsen, leading this important work. —**Sherrie**

### In This Issue

- Alignment of Assessments
- Message from the Superintendent

## Alignment of Assessment Data Submitted by Tim Jarboe and Mark Tavernier

2. Analyze the domain weights of the items in the CA Review Packets (administered after the first CA to remediate students before the EOC) and compare that to the domain weights of the CA's and the EOC. This ensures that the Review Packets emphasize domains in the same manner as the EOC.
3. Quantify the effectiveness of Foothills' EOC remediation process and provide a summary that can guide the revision of the Review Packets: a) The Data Team has summarized each EOC course domain areas of strength and challenges as measured by the Percent of correct items on CA #2 (after students have completed their review packets); b) the Data Team has also identified the levels of growth that have occurred between the first CA and the second CA for each course. The review packets in some courses are working more effectively than in other courses.



### ANALYSIS OF THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENTS & THE EOC

**First**, an initial correlation analysis was completed between the current CA (Cumulative Assessment) scores and the accompanying EOC scores for Fall MM 22/Winter Main 22. While n-sizes are not as large as they will be with spring scores added in, there is already a substantial to high correlation for 3 of the 4 courses! There is a moderate correlation for the 4th course. This is the beginning of the process to determine “cut scores” for the CA's that can predict EOC performance.

### REVIEW PACKET ALIGNMENT WITH EOC

**Second**, the Data Team has summarized the percentage of each review packet that is aligned with each EOC domain and how that compares to the EOC percentage. All Course Review Packets have domains that contain a percentage of items that are out of alignment with the distribution of items on the EOC.

### EFFECTIVENESS OF EOC REMEDIATION PROCESS

Data Team has analyzed the average increases between CA #1 and CA #2 (and ranked sites in terms of growth gains) to see how remediation practices are affecting scores. All courses have domain areas of strength and challenges as measured by the percent of correct items on CA #2 (after Remediation).

Data Team has analyzed domain performance on CA's and EOC's (that have been administered so far this year) to identify similarities and differences between the two assessments in terms of student performance. US History and American Literature have the largest percentage of students who have moderate to high growth. Algebra and Biology have the smallest percentage of students having moderate to high growth (these two courses have percentages that are half as large).

To all of this, **Scott Gordon, Foothills Regional Director for Curriculum and Instruction**, add this important reminder: "As you can see, this extensive analysis is wholly dependent upon everyone implementing the review process as prescribed. Thank you all for consistently using the tools provided to help our students."



2415 Jefferson Road, Suite B  
Athens, GA 30607  
[www.foothillscharter.org](http://www.foothillscharter.org)  
706-395-9775

### *The Foothills Vision*

*Foothills Education Charter High School strives to be an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.*