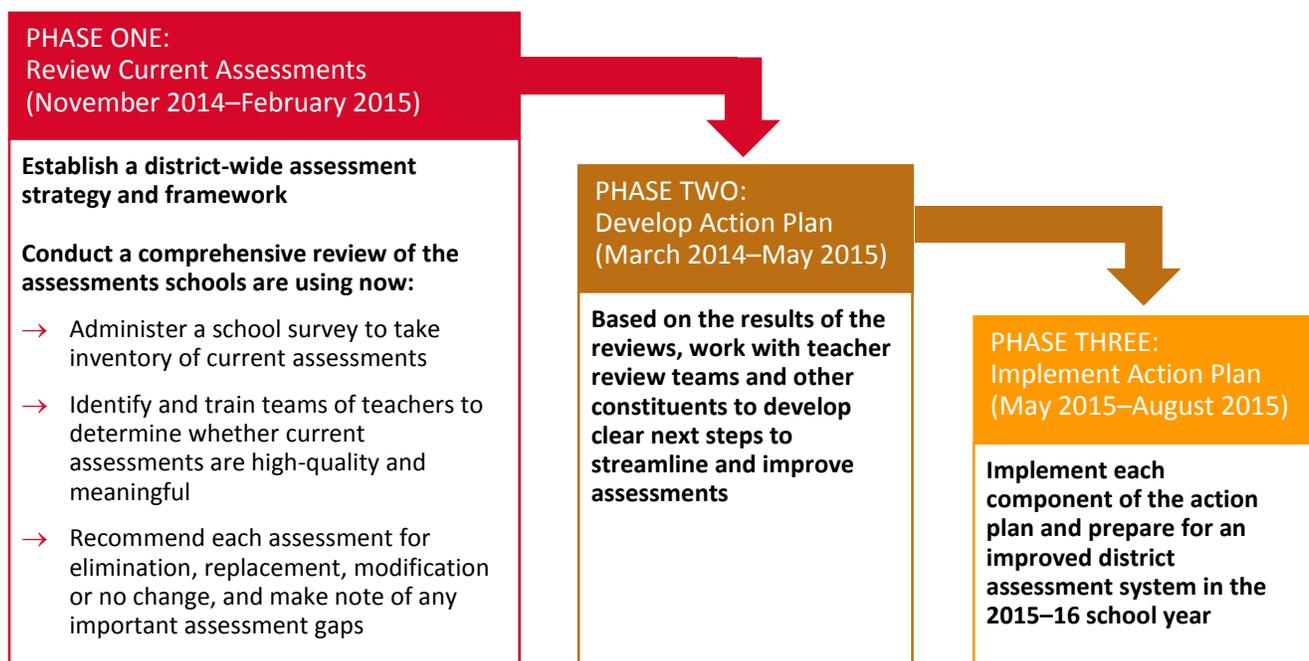




TEACHING IS THE CORE: Improving Student Assessments to Support Teaching and Learning

SCSD is leveraging the opportunity to rethink assessment and address concerns that student assessment has become a distraction from educators' core work, rather than what it should be—a crucial component of teaching and learning. In response, we are beginning a district-wide initiative aimed at improving the quality of the tools our educators use to measure student learning. We plan to work with teams of teachers to review the assessments currently in use across the district, eliminate any assessments that do not contribute meaningfully to teaching and learning, improve the quality of other assessments, and support our teachers to use assessments more effectively in the classroom. We are naming this effort Teaching is the Core.

How will we go about this work? Teaching is the Core will be organized into three phases that will unfold over the course of the 2014–15 school year and beyond:



Where appropriate, we will offer professional development sessions for identified teachers, who will review assessments in English, math, social studies, science, fine arts, career and technical education, English as a second language and world languages. We will also share regular updates with schools and the community, and we look forward to incorporating input from these core constituents along the way.

Who will lead this work? This work is a collaborative effort across several SCSD divisions, including the offices of Teaching and Learning, Shared Accountability and Talent Management. Teams of teachers, organized by subject area, will lead the comprehensive assessment review process. The project will also be influenced by the ongoing input of key parent, school, district, STA and community representatives. Please contact Paula Shannon with any questions at 315.435.5844 or pshannon@scsd.us.