Field of Alignment after 15 Years
The Next Generation

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Overview

• Current Status of Alignment

• Alignment Issues

• Alignment for the Future
Current Status of Alignment
Approaches to Alignment Analysis

- Survey of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) – Index/landscape
- Webb – Criteria centered
- Achieve – Criteria with qualitative analysis
# Rank Order of the SEC and WAT Alignment Analyses

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Alignment Issues

- Interpretation
- Precision
- Expansion
Interpretation of Alignment Analyses

- Decision rules (currently)
- Simulations of different levels of alignment and reliable decisions about student
- Correlational studies on degrees of alignment and facilitation of student performance
Alignment Attributes Up for Consideration

- Minimum number of items for a reporting category
- Content complexity agreement between items and standards (DOK)
- Coverage of domain of knowledge (range)
- Variation of emphasis
Precision—Unit of Analysis

• Generally determined by the structure of the standards

• Degree of alignment is reported by aggregating over the unit of analysis

• Alignment results would be more precise if unit of analysis was more detailed
Precision—Partial Matches

- An item targets a part of an objective
- Only some objectives are hit
- More accurate analysis of range
Precision—Reviewer Agreement

- Lack of agreement can be due to poor alignment
- High reliability can mask alignment problems
- Multiple groups of reviewers can replicate results
Expansion
Computerized Adaptive Testing

- Extending analysis beyond grade level
- Alignment relates to item pool, blueprint, and selection algorithm
- Sample of test events for analysis
Increased Variety of Tasks

- Performance tasks
- Different weighting of tasks
- Nested tasks (e.g. draw an inference then ask for evidence)
Increased Purposes of Assessments

- Interim assessments
- Student growth or value added models
- Prediction rather than proficiency
- Teacher evaluation and classroom sampling
Relevance of Alignment for the Future

- Standards-based Accountability System
- Readiness Accountability System
- Growth Accountability System