

## TEACHER'S CORNER – OCTOBER 2015

### COLLECTING AND USING DATA

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An important part of teaching is being certain that your students are learning what you teach them. Sometimes we think we have planned the most engaging, effective lesson, but then it does not work out as well as we thought it would. Other times, our students may be interested and involved in what we teach, but then they are unable to apply what they have learned. So how do we know that our students are really learning?

Collecting and using classroom data is an essential skill for any educator who wants to be sure their students are grasping the content of lessons. This month in the Teacher's Corner, we will examine some ways to answer the question, "Are my students learning what I am teaching?" First, we will look closely at lesson planning. We will consider how to guarantee that lessons have a final goal, keep students on track to meet the goal, and include different types of assessment that check for understanding. Next, we will examine some ways to collect classroom data through various types of assessment activities. Finally, we will explore how to use the data we collect to have a positive impact on student learning.