

TOOLKIT ONE: ASSESS WHO CAN ASSESS?



Assessment comes in many forms, formal and informal, and from as many perspectives as possible. Here is a breakdown of potential assessment sources and the pros and cons associated with each type. Use it as a guide in evaluating the variety of potential assessments and sources available to your school community.

LESS ↑ LEVEL OF COMPREHENSIVENESS ↓ MORE	INFORMAL ASSESSMENT			
	ASSESSMENT	COST	PROS	CONS
	Parent self-assessment	Low-cost	Helps inform and raises awareness for potential problems and risks	Limited outcomes of information
	School self-assessment	Low-cost	Quickly done; some simple measures can be addressed and corrected	Lack of specialized knowledge and limited scope may hinder results
LEVEL OF COMPREHENSIVENESS				
↓				
FORMAL ASSESSMENT				
	ASSESSMENT	COST	PROS	CONS
	Governmental agencies (examples: homeland security, police dept)	Free or low-cost	Offer area-specific knowledge at a lower cost; involvement of local agencies is always strongly advised	Limited availability of these professionals may delay the assessment process
	Outside specialists (private agencies for hire)	Costs vary	Offer independent and specialized expertise	Do your homework on credentials; be wary of product-pushing and cure-all solutions