

IRIS Module:

Classroom Assessment (Part 1): An Introduction to Monitoring Academic Achievement in the Classroom

Challenge (Movie Transcript)

Narrator: Ms. Begay is a first year fourth-grade teacher. She met with her mentor teacher, Mrs. Hernandez, because she was concerned with the progress of three of her students.

Ms. Begay: Hi, Mrs. Hernandez. Thanks for meeting with me.

Mrs. Hernandez: No problem. Here, have a seat. What's going on?

Ms. Begay: I'm just not sure I'm reaching some of my students, especially Luke, Louisa, and José. They're my lowest for every subject. Math, reading, and spelling are their worst subjects.

Mrs. Hernandez: Do they have IEPs?

Ms. Begay: We think José has one. He just came in last month, and we haven't gotten his records yet. Luke doesn't have an IEP, and Louisa has just been referred for special education. I brought their cumulative files, but I'm not sure what I should look for.

Mrs. Hernandez: Let's look at their scores from the end-of-grade testing last year. It shows here that Luke scored near the 40th percentile in math and reading. That's close to average. I wouldn't expect him to be having trouble.

Ms. Begay: He's higher than the other two, but he's still frustrated with the work I give him.

Mrs. Hernandez: Louisa scored in the 15th percentile in reading and the 10th percentile in math. That's low. She will probably require quite a bit of support this year. And who knows about José we don't have his records yet. What have you tried with them so far?

Ms. Begay: Well, I had to pull them out of the lowest reading group. They couldn't keep up with the other kids. Math and spelling are just as bad. And I've been working with them individually during independent practice. I just don't know if it's helping.

Mrs. Hernandez: Do you think they need different materials? I have a couple of programs in reading and one in math for at-risk students.

Ms. Begay: I'm not sure if I should try something else or just wait to see if they improve from what I'm doing now. I think they can handle the regular curriculum if I modify it. That's another problem; I'm not sure what I should expect from these students. You know what worries me the most? After all this hard work, we'll get to the end-of-the-grade tests, and they won't show any improvement.

Mrs. Hernandez: Setting goals can be really challenging.