

Webinar

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# How Districts Can Support Meaningful Learning Through Performance Assessments

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Webinar

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# How Districts Can Support Meaningful Learning Through Performance Assessments

# Moderator



## Anna Maier

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*Research Analyst and  
Policy Advisor*

Learning Policy Institute

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# Agenda

## CPAC Overview & Research Presentation

**Anna Maier**, *Research Analyst and Policy Advisor*, Learning Policy Institute

## Discussion and Q&A

**Anna Maier**, *Research Analyst and Policy Advisor*, Learning Policy Institute

**Young Whan Choi**, *Manager of Performance Assessments*, Oakland Unified School District

**Esther Soliman**, *Career Technical Education-Linked Learning Administrator*, Los Angeles Unified School District

**Kristina Turley**, *College & Career Coordinator*, Pasadena Unified School District

# What is Performance Assessment?

- A strategy that requires students to **show what they know** by performing, creating, or producing something with **real-world applications**.
- Designed to **surface students' facility with core modes of inquiry**—e.g., scientific investigation, mathematical modeling, literary analysis, social scientific inquiry, and artistic performance.
- Exists along a **continuum of complexity**, with different types of performance assessments serving different purposes.

# California Performance Assessment Collaborative (CPAC)



Statewide network of districts and school networks

**Goal:** Expand the use of high-quality and equitable performance assessment systems as a means of driving teaching and learning





PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CASE STUDY SERIES

## Using Performance Assessments to Support Student Learning

How District Initiatives Can Make a Difference

Anna Maier, Julie Adams, Dion Burns, Maya Kaul, Marisa Saunders, and Charlie Thompson



OCTOBER 2020



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CASE STUDY SERIES

### Using Performance Assessments to Support Student Learning in Pasadena Unified School District



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CASE STUDY SERIES

### Using Performance Assessments to Support Student Learning in Los Angeles Unified School District



Marisa Saunders, Maya Kaul, and Charlie Thompson



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CASE STUDY SERIES

### Using Performance Assessments to Support Student Learning in Oakland Unified School District



Charlie Thompson, Dion Burns, and Anna Maier

OCTOBER 2020



# Districts Studied

## LOS ANGELES UNIFIED

~600,000 students    Opt-in (through Linked Learning)    Portfolio Defense

## OAKLAND UNIFIED

~50,000 students    Hybrid (*Requirement + Opt-in*)    Graduate Capstone

## PASADENA UNIFEID

~17,000 students    District Policy    Senior Defense

# Conditions that Matter for Districts

**Foundational policies and practices** related to performance assessments

**Supportive state and local policy and practice** environment

## **Key starting conditions**

1. Technical assistance
2. Opportunities to observe
3. Strategy to develop and scale

# Conditions that Matter for Teachers



*Photo provided with permission by the Linked Learning Alliance*

**High-quality professional learning opportunities**

**Support for and recognition of strong teacher leadership**

# Conditions that Matter for Students



*Photo provided with permission by Pasadena Unified School District*

**Flexibility for instructional leaders to determine student supports**

# Reported Outcomes

## Students

Demonstrate deeper learning competencies

Confidence in college and career preparation

Growth in social-emotional skills

## Teachers

Align curriculum, instruction, and assessment

Reflect on and improve instructional practice

Closer relationships with students and fellow teachers

# Recommendations to Support Districts

## STATE POLICYMAKERS

Consider opportunities for **state policy** to support innovative performance assessment initiatives in local districts through **educational standards**, **assessment and accountability** approaches, and **funding** opportunities.

## DISTRICT LEADERS

Enact a **district policy** in support of performance assessments that balances an **opt-in, collaborative approach** with **centralized supports** and eventual **expectations for all students and schools** to participate.



# Recommendations to Support Teachers and Students

## DISTRICT LEADERS

Develop an **implementation strategy** that includes **strong supports for teachers**, such as **staff time** for planning, coordinating, and mentoring students, as well as **professional learning and coaching** opportunities.

## DISTRICT LEADERS

Equitably **allocate sufficient resources** across academic programs, student demographic groups, and school sites to **ensure that students have the support they need** to successfully participate in district performance assessment initiatives.

# Discussion and Q&A



Moderator:

**Anna Maier**

*Research Analyst  
and Policy Advisor*  
Learning Policy Institute

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**Esther Soliman**

*Career Technical Education-  
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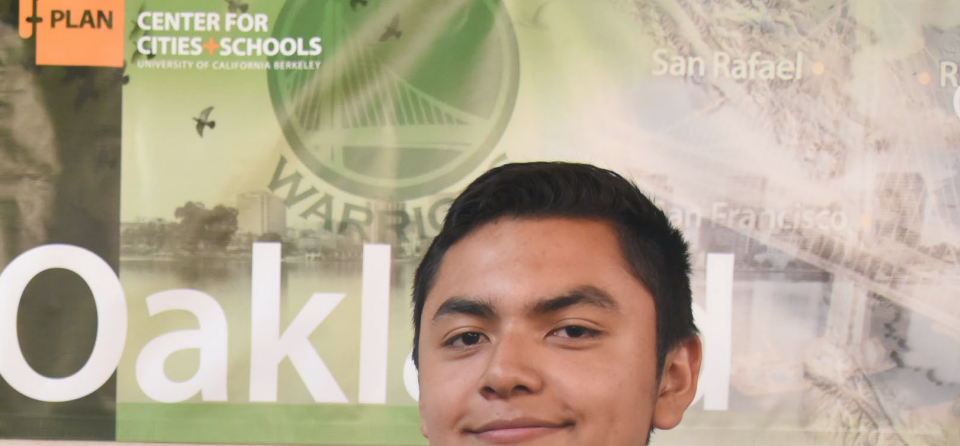
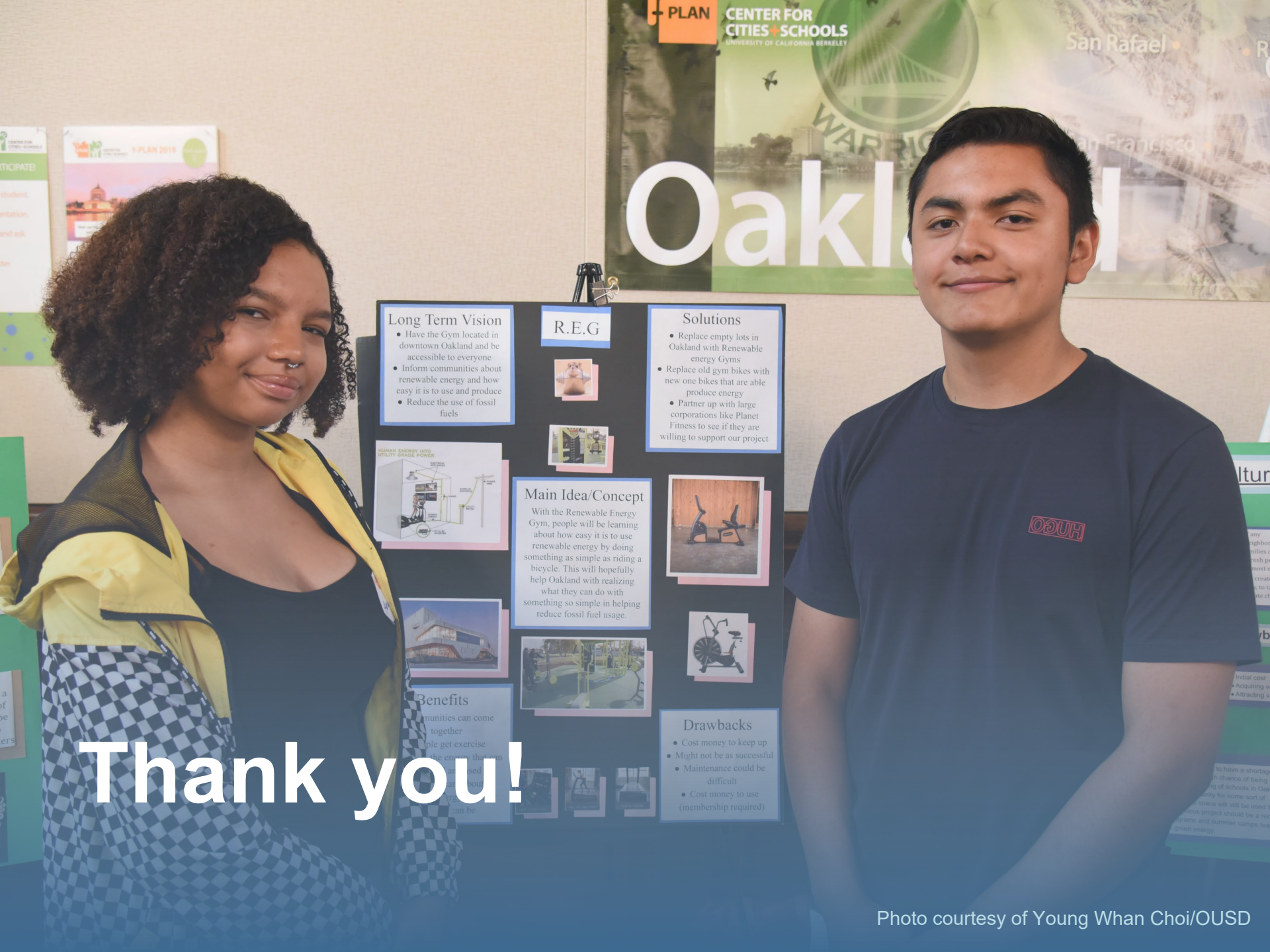
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**Kristina Turley**

*College & Career  
Coordinator*  
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District

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San Rafael  
San Francisco

# Oakland

### Long Term Vision

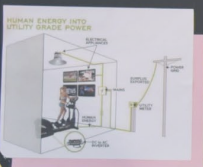
- Have the Gym located in downtown Oakland and be accessible to everyone
- Inform communities about renewable energy and how easy it is to use and produce
- Reduce the use of fossil fuels

### R.E.G



### Solutions

- Replace empty lots in Oakland with Renewable energy Gyms
- Replace old gym bikes with new one bikes that are able to produce energy
- Partner up with large corporations like Planet Fitness to see if they are willing to support our project



### Main Idea/Concept

With the Renewable Energy Gym, people will be learning about how easy it is to use renewable energy by doing something as simple as riding a bicycle. This will hopefully help Oakland with realizing what they can do with something so simple in helping reduce fossil fuel usage.



### Benefits

Communities can come together to get exercise and produce the energy that can be used for their own needs. This can be a great way to reduce fossil fuel usage and help the environment.



### Drawbacks

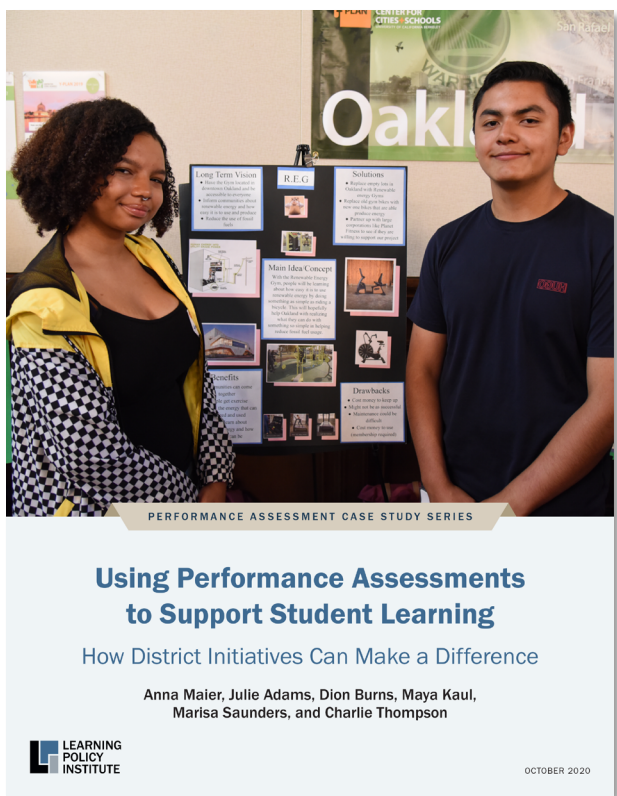
- Cost money to keep up
- Might not be as successful
- Maintenance could be difficult
- Cost money to use (membership required)

# Thank you!

Photo courtesy of Young Whan Choi/OUSD



# Resources



**Report, brief, and case studies:**  
[learningpolicyinstitute.org/cpac-report-2020](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/cpac-report-2020)

**Learning Policy Institute:** [learningpolicyinstitute.org](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org)

**California Performance Assessment Collaborative:**  
[learningpolicyinstitute.org/cpac](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/cpac)

**Blog | Oakland Graduate Capstone: It's about Equity:**  
[bit.ly/oakland\\_blog](https://bit.ly/oakland_blog)

**Video | The Power of Performance Assessments:**  
[bit.ly/oakland\\_video](https://bit.ly/oakland_video)

**Video Series | Reflections on Oakland's Graduate Capstone Project:**  
[bit.ly/oakland\\_reflections](https://bit.ly/oakland_reflections)

**Pasadena Unified School District Playbook:**  
[bit.ly/pasadena\\_playbook](https://bit.ly/pasadena_playbook)

**LAUSD Student Graduate Profile:** [bit.ly/LA\\_profile](https://bit.ly/LA_profile)