# Performance Assessment for Teacher Leaders (PATL)

## Library of Examples

## Task 6, Needs Assessment

Below is an example of a written response to the Needs Assessment textbox. The candidate response was not corrected or changed from what was submitted. This information is being provided for illustrative purposes only. While the Needs Assessment textbox does not receive a score, this is an example that candidates can use for comparison purposes to see the kinds of evidence that they may need to add to their own work in order to give the rater a perspective based on the needs assessment around which this response is based.

### Guiding Prompt for the Needs Assessment

Briefly describe the needs assessment that you and your colleagues used to identify and assess opportunities to affect educational improvement and student learning. The needs assessment for this task may be based on something your district already uses but that you and your colleagues have modified.

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### Example

As 6th Grade Math Chair, I led the 6th Grade Math Team in the process of reflecting upon the success and challenges at the end of school year 2014-15. We came together in person during a professional development day over the summer to engage in discussion about each aspect of our instructional program and our students' learning needs. Our students performed below state averages on the Math End of Grade Assessment and we spent a lot of time examining that data and discussing the factors that contributed to those low scores. I then asked each team member to complete a detailed needs assessment survey. The results of that survey showed that we needed to make some major changes to our instructional program for the following school year in order to best support our students in demonstrating mastery on assessments, particularly in the area of responding to extended or constructed response questions. In particular, a program was unanimously found to be ineffective by each teacher on the team. We had previously relied on this program for students to respond to extended or constructed response questions. However, it was difficult to navigate and families disliked using an additional web site, so our participation was low. Additionally, the site did not have a question bank that was closely aligned to state standards. We used the information gathered from this needs assessment to inform our planning and decision-making for the following school year.

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