Overview of Academic Goal Setting Strategies

Option 1. Using Benchmarks

- Description: Identify the grade level winter or end-of-year benchmark and use for goal.
- Advantages:
  - Easy-to-use when progress monitoring tool provides benchmarks.
  - Tracks progress toward grade-level expectations.
  - Efficient for setting goals for large numbers of students
- Considerations:
  - Not appropriate for those students significantly below or above benchmark. To determine appropriateness, ensure that the expected weekly growth is also realistic (e.g., no more than twice average growth, at least average growth)

Option 2. National Norms for Rate of Improvement (ROI)

- Description: Identify average growth per week (ROI) for grade and number of weeks left in the instructional period (when we want the goal to be reached). Use the following to calculate a realistic goal.

\[
\text{ROI} \times \text{# Weeks} + \text{Baseline Score} = \text{GOAL}
\]

- Advantages:
  - Provide more realistic goal when using benchmarks are not appropriate
- Considerations:
  - If a student is behind, matching the ROI norm will maintain the same level of achievement gap.
  - Some progress monitoring tools provide recommendations for “ambitious” ROIs.
  - When national norms are not available, consider using local norms or estimating ROI by dividing growth between benchmark periods by the number of weeks of instruction.

Option 3. Intra-individual Framework

- Description: Uses an individual growth rate based on past performance instead of a national normed growth rate.
- Advantages:
  - Provides valid goal setting strategy in situations where students are performing far below grade level and typical growth rates are not appropriate.
- Considerations:
  - Use three most recent data points to calculate baseline score.
  - Calculate student’s ROI (SROI) based on at least eight data points
  - \textbf{Why 1.5?} Since the current SROI is insufficient to close the achievement gap, we want to increase current growth by at least half (x 1.5).
  - A more ambitious goal may be set if appropriate (e.g., if after several weeks of progress monitoring, the current SROI exceeds the goal SROI).
Goal Setting Activity

Information you will need: Jane’s Reading Connected Text scores in correct words read correctly (WRC).

- **Winter** Screening Benchmark: 23
- Weeks remaining in the semester: 16
- National norms and benchmarks by grade level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>End-of-Year Benchmark*</th>
<th>Rate of Improvement (ROI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Word Identification Fluency</td>
<td>40 sounds/minute</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reading Connected Text</td>
<td>60 correct words/minute</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Reading Connected Text</td>
<td>75 correct words/minute</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These assessments and norms are for illustrative purposes only. For information about your tool, visit the National Center on Intensive Intervention’s Academic Progress Monitoring Tools Chart, [http://www.intensiveintervention.org/chart/progress-monitoring](http://www.intensiveintervention.org/chart/progress-monitoring).

Worksheet for Calculating Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Norms for Weekly Rate of Improvement (ROI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructions:</td>
<td>Using the information and chart in this handout, identify the appropriate grade-level, end-of-year benchmark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formula:</strong></td>
<td>ROI x # Weeks + Baseline Score = GOAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Steps:** | 1. Gather Data
| | ROI from norms table: ______
| | # of weeks left in instructional period: ______
| | Baseline score: ______
| | 2. Calculate
| | ______ x ______ + ______ = ______
| | ROI #weeks Baseline Goal |
| Goal = ______________ | Goal = ______________ |