Doing What We Already do to Track Data

Ideally we want to assess student understanding midway of each unit. In Social Studies however we teach so many TEKS we almost teach an entirely new concept everyday. For Social Studies we might want to try to assess student understanding every two weeks or ***when we feel they should have memorized basic information*** about what we have taught them and they ***have had practice working*** with that information.

Data tracking can be really awful but we do things everyday that can make it less awful if we tweak the way we do a few things. Here are some quick ideas on how to adjust what we regularly do in order to capture targeted data.

Using Your Grade book as a Data Tracker

We use our grade book for everything why not as a data tracker? Maybe we want to test mastery over a set of skills or standards. We can create an assignment in our grade book and put the TEK or TEKS in the title. We can then print our grades out for that assignment and compare it to the grades for another assignment testing the same TEKS and we can track student growth using our grade book.

This can work well for assignments with the same skill for example - essays where students have to use the same writing template or model. Are they improving in their ability to analyzing content and writing in the appropriate format or are they struggling between these timed writings? We can then further examine what the disconnect might be with the student. After a few runs is it the writing skills they are not getting or are they just not remembering the content?

Eduphoria

We can use Eduphoria to track student data however, regular use of Eduphoria would allow us to retest TEKS in different ways and test if a student has improved or not.

Old School 10-15 Questions with Peer Checks

Give students a quick 10-15 questions quiz. Pick up the papers and pass back to different students. Go over the quiz question by question (reteach) and have students write how many each got at the top then turn in. *Students are not grading one another or assigning a grade they are checking one another, you do not even have to take this quiz for a grade but you can use it to see what questions are being missed the most and what standards are being missed the most.* **As students check you can ask them to raise their hand (how many missed #1, then on your own copy of the quiz write down totals for each class period as you go**, you will have a folder showing which question and standards were missed for each class and then know what needs to be retaught. You have also reviewed and retaught the concepts by going over the quiz with the students.)

Old School Exit Tickets with Peer Checks

You can do the same activity above but with an exit ticket. Students write responses to 2-3 questions then they switch with a peer. As a teacher go over what the answers should be and then have students give their opinions or ask questions to see if there can be half points given for partially correct answers. After each question ask, "raise your hand if your partner got #1 partially correct?, what if they got it wrong?" tally it on your own copy and you have addressed and retaught the exit ticket. Partners should put in the right answer to help their partner have something to study later. These do not have to be taken for a grade as long as you have the data.

Socrative for Digital Formative Assessments

Socrative is a great tool to do digital formative assessments. Students get a different screen and a scrambled question and Socrative will collect all the data for you. Towards the end you can review which questions were missed the most and reteach concepts. Students can also do practice quizzes and see the correct answers when they get an answer incorrect. Then you can see what questions they got wrong as they self-track their own performance. Students can self-track which ones are wrong on a paper for you or a tally sheet they add their tallies to at the end of the quiz. They should note the question they got wrong, what the right answer is, and study it.