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Assessing Student Learning of Digital Technologies Through a Transdisciplinary STEM Approach

Since 2017 ACARA has been working with 160 disadvantaged schools nationally. Curriculum officers have worked collaboratively with schools to help them implement the Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies. One of the challenges faced by schools has been developing authentic assessment activities. Many schools were interested in developing transdisciplinary STEM projects with rich assessment but found the development of tasks challenging. ACARA collaborated with the Australian Computing Academy to explore how best to develop assessment activities that ensured Digital Technologies concepts were addressed in an authentic and cohesive way.

The proposed workshop provides an opportunity for educators to review Digital Technologies/STEM assessment tasks for their chosen band and experience and undertake some of the transdisciplinary practical activities in the tasks. Participants will have the opportunity to identify important elements in the various achievement standards and start to design their own transdisciplinary assessment tasks.

This workshop consists of an introduction and the choice of two activities. We will briefly outline the process of developing STEM assessment tasks with a focus on Digital Technologies concepts. Participants will review a sample assessment task and its connections to other learning areas for a relevant band. They will develop their own transdisciplinary assessment activity by identifying key elements of the Digital Technologies achievement standard for their chosen band and identifying supporting assessable content from other learning areas.