Opening: Hello, I’m Anthony Dougherty from Professional Development. Today I am going to talk about tracking student progress. When you hear the term tracking students, the first thing you might think about is tranquilizing them and attaching GPS tracking tags to their ears. Well, first of all, that’s not what I’m talking about. And second, that is illegal. Really illegal.

Tracking student progress is about checking for understanding along the way. It helps guide teacher decision making towards future instruction. It’s also meant to provide feedback to students so they can improve their performance. It’s not simply about analyzing the results of a test or exam.

The most helpful tool you can use for tracking student progress is a scale designed specifically on the learning goal. It involves charting student progress on individual learning goals.

Scales: Here is a generic scale format. Of course your own scale will be more complex since it will be adapted to your own students’ needs and the learning goal. Now the Marzano framework shows that the way to ensure both teacher and student are aware of the learning goal and that it has clearly been articulated is to write it in scale format. It is the 4 point scale that most of you are familiar with already. 1.0, with help or assistance, the student has partial success with the unit content. 2.0 is a simpler goal with the Content and skills needed in order to move to 3.0 and related targets. 3.0 is the goal, with the Learning goal and related targets. Finally, 4.0 is the more complex goal with In-depth inferences or applications and related targets.

Response Patterns: You mainly want to use the scale to track progress and celebrate success. It is helpful to examine the response patterns on the assessments relative to the scale. You can use the scale to talk with the student and question them to verify their understanding of the content from specific items they missed in regards to the learning goal.

Unobtrusive Assessments: There are many other helpful tools to help you in the process of tracking student progress. Unobtrusive assessments allow the flow of the classroom to keep going forward. The learning doesn’t stop. This can be observations where the teacher sees the student demonstrating a particular type of knowledge or student generated assessments that involve students planning tasks that will demonstrate their level of knowledge for a specific learning goal. They can also include hand signals such as 1234, exit cards, or even a simple whiteboard.

Charting Student Progress: Ultimately through all of this it is important to chart student progress. This can be done in a variety of ways. One example is to have the student set a goal for the learning goal at the beginning of the unit, and then track their scores on that learning goal throughout the unit in their notebooks, log or even chart paper on a classroom wall.

Time for Review: Remember, tracking student progress is about a scale designed specifically on the learning goal. It also involves charting student progress on individual learning goals.
For more information on tracking student progress and scales, please check out our website for additional resources to help deepen your understanding. Thank you.