

## Transcript – Comparison Reports

**Presenter:** The Universal Screener Comparison Summary Report allows the user to make comparisons over time for individuals and groups of students, as well as classes and grades, and to make comparisons between groups of students.

The Universal Screener is designed to be administered three times per year--in the fall, winter, and in early spring. We can make two different decisions from those results.

First, we can determine if students are on track for meeting our expectations in algebra or if they might be at risk for not meeting our expectations in algebra. For students who are at risk for not meeting our expectations in algebra, another decision that we might make from these results is the intensity of support that those students might need in order to be successful.

The “Class Summary Report”, which we learned about in an earlier lesson, can be used to assist in making those two decisions at each administration in the fall, the winter, and the spring. But once we have at least two data points, either the fall and the winter; winter and spring; or fall, winter, and spring; we can use the comparison reports to look at the change in students’ performance over time.

The comparison report also helps us look at individual student performance or the performance of certain groups of students. For example, the groups of students could be small groups of students receiving a specific intervention, classes of students, or an entire grade level.

The assessment comparison report presents information in a box and whisker plot. Box and whisker plots are very helpful for making comparisons because they display the distribution of data over time for a group of students. We can also plot individual performance using line graphs. So, we are going to look at a box and whisker plot and describe how we can interpret the scores.

This report shows scaled scores for all students for three teachers.

First, let’s look at the x- and y- axes. For this box and whisker plot, the x-axis is labeled “MSTAR Assessment.” In this case, three teachers are displayed. The x-axis may change depending on what we are comparing. The y-axis represents the range of scale scores on the Universal Screener.

Let’s take a closer look at the center box and whisker. The line in the middle of the center box is the median. Fifty percent of the values fall at or below this line. The lower part of the box marks the lower quartile, meaning that 25% of the students’ scores fall at or below that line. The top line of the box plot marks the upper quartile or the 75th percentile. And that’s where 75% of the students’ scores fall at or below that line. And the two whiskers, if you will, show the range of the students’ scores. The bottom line of the lowest whisker is the minimum score and the upper whisker shows the maximum score. The circle in the box plot represents the average and corresponds to the color of the tier. In this case, the teacher’s student average falls within Tier 1A. Finally, when we look at the box and whisker plot for our scores, we can see the range of student scores from that administration of the MSTAR Universal Screener.