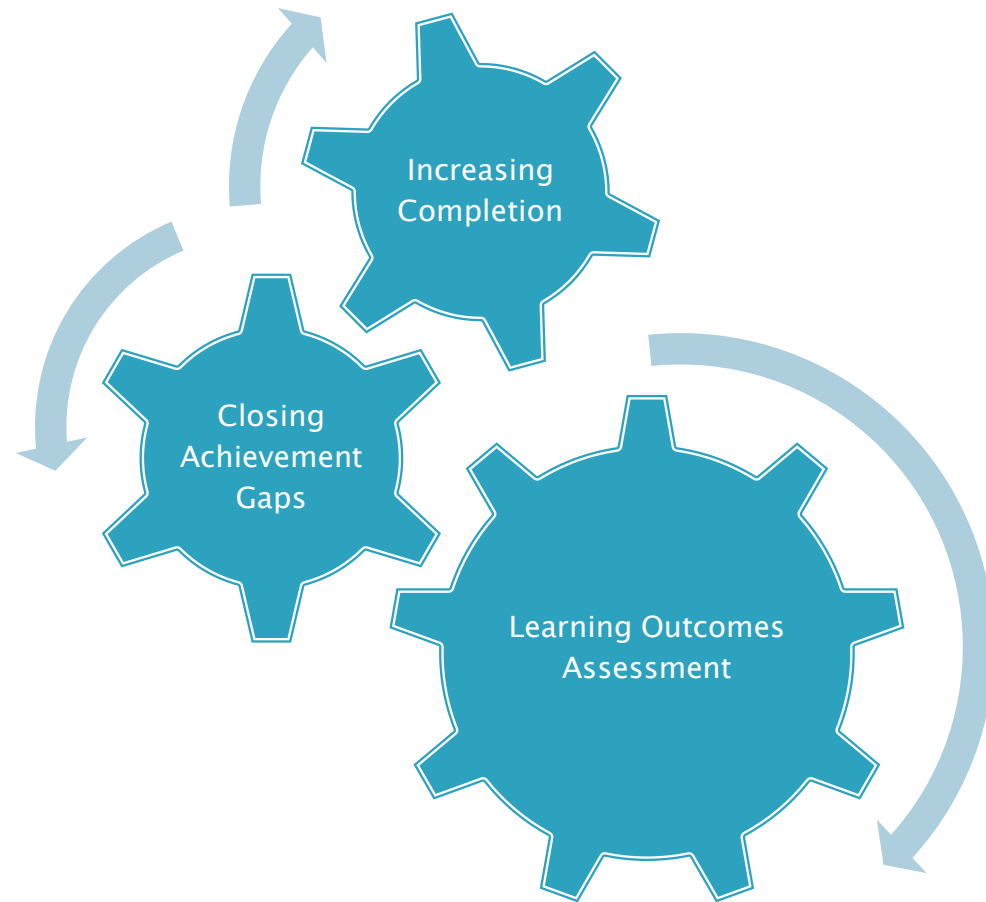


# DHE Learning Outcomes Assessment

Dr. Robert Awkward  
Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment  
Task Force on Statewide Assessment Meeting  
October 17, 2017

# Alignment of Assessment and the Big Three Higher Education Goals



# Assessment Update: 2016–2017

## ▶ Convenings:

- Amcoa Team: Met 9/29/16 at UMass Lowell, 12/2/2016 at Holyoke Community College, 2/2/2017 at Middlesex Community College, and 3/31/2017 at Quinsigamond Community College
- Topics included:
  - NEASC new accreditation standards
  - Inter-rate reliability
  - MSC Demonstration Year results
  - Transparent assignment design
  - Emerging trends in assessment technology

# Assessment Update: 2016–2017

## ▶ Convenings:

- Task Force on Statewide Assessment: Met 10/18/2016 at Framingham State University, 1/19/2017 at Quinsigamond Community College, and 3/10/2017 at Worcester State University
- Topics included:
  - Current state of assessment
  - MSC Demonstration Year results
  - NILOA's *Excellence in Assessment* certification
  - Campus success stories (MCAD, MMA, and The Q)

# Assessment Update: 2016–2017

- ▶ Sixth Annual Assessment Conference: April 21, 2017 at Westborough Doubletree
  - 100 registrants
  - Headliners included Dr. Susan Albertine from AAC&U and Dr. Natasha Jankowski from NILOA
  - Participant feedback (based on 44% response rate) was:
    - Overall: 4.8 out of 5.0 (96%)
    - Format: 4.75 out of 5.0 (95%)
    - Topics presented: 4.73 out of 5.0 (94.6%)
    - Presenters: 4.8 out of 5.0 (96%)
    - Site: 4.85 out of 5.0 (97%)

# Multi-State Collaborative (MSC) to Advance Quality Student Learning

- ▶ Increased participating institutions from seven (2015–2016) to eleven for the Refinement Year
- ▶ This represents 8 of 10 segments required for a representative sample
- ▶ Held regular MSC–MA Steering Committee meetings: 10/27/2016, 1/18/2017, and 4/19/2017
- ▶ Provided institutional funds support to participating institutions (albeit down 16.7% from the prior year)
- ▶ Shared results with the Amcoa Team, the Task Force, and the Board of Higher Education

# MassTransfer Pathways

- ▶ Developed learning outcomes for 25 foundational courses for seven disciplines working with 21 discipline-based, segment leaders, and MassTransfer faculty selected to represent their respective institutions:
  - Biology
  - Chemistry (General and Organic)
  - Economics
  - History
  - Political Science
  - Psychology (two of eight completed)
  - Sociology



# Assessment Update: 2016–2017

- ▶ **Funded Assessment Professional Development Seminars for the:**
  - **Western Region** on April 28, 2017
    - Assignment Design at Westfield State University
  - **Southeast Region** on May 23, 2017
    - Information Literacy Charrette at Massasoit Community College
  - **Central Region** on July 10, 2017
    - NEASC E Series Forms and Meaningful Campus Assessment at UMass Lowell



# Assessment Update: 2016–2017

- ▶ Informational Presentations conducted by Dr. Lane Glenn, President, Northern Essex Community College; Dr. Patricia Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success; and Bob Awkward for:
  - Community College Council of Presidents on February 17, 2017
  - The Board of Higher Education on March 21, 2017
  - Council of State University Presidents on April 14, 2017

# Institutional Assessment Survey

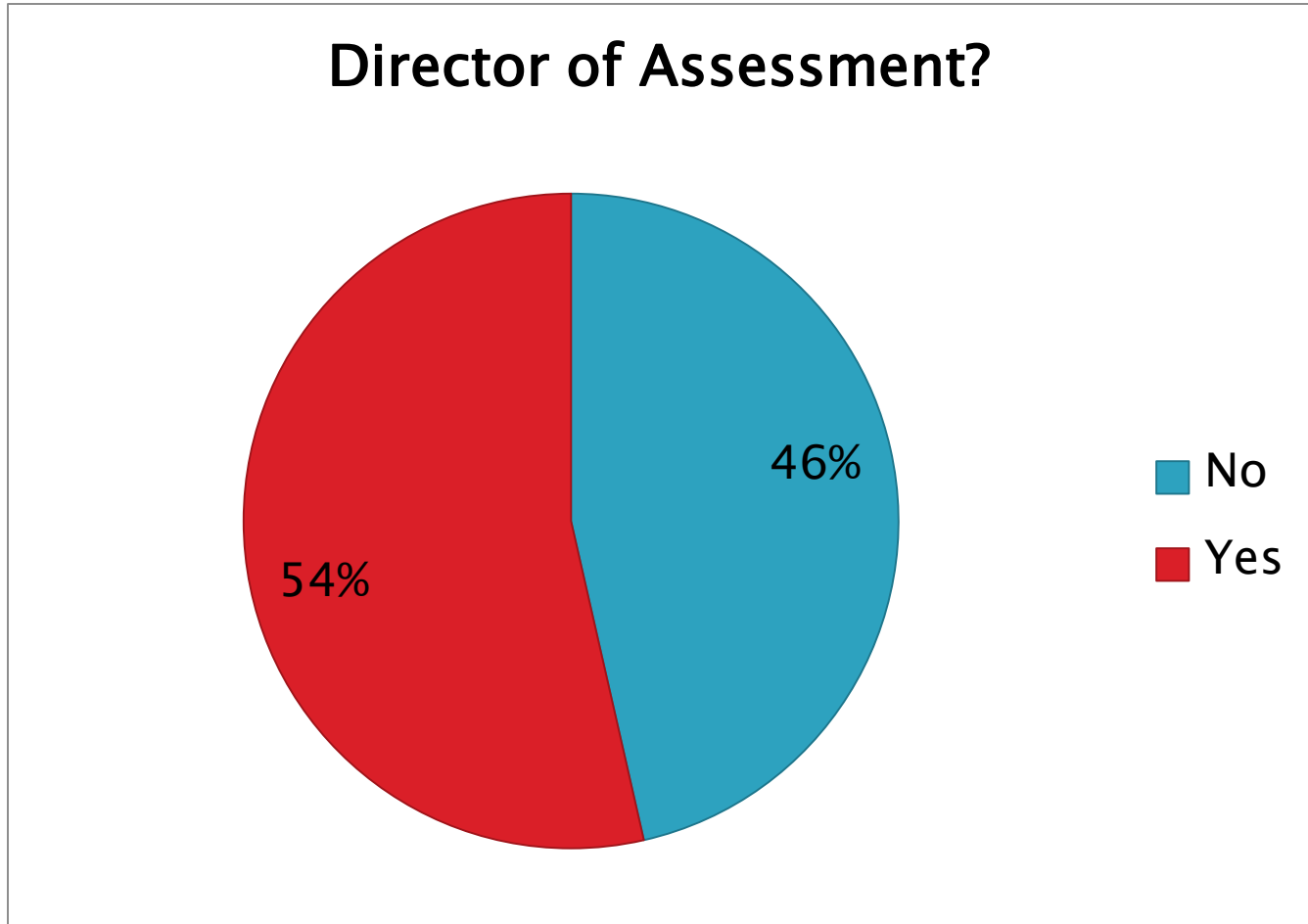
## ▶ Survey Overview:

- Survey monkey conducted during the month of August 2017.
- Responses from 27 out of 28 (96.4%) institutions

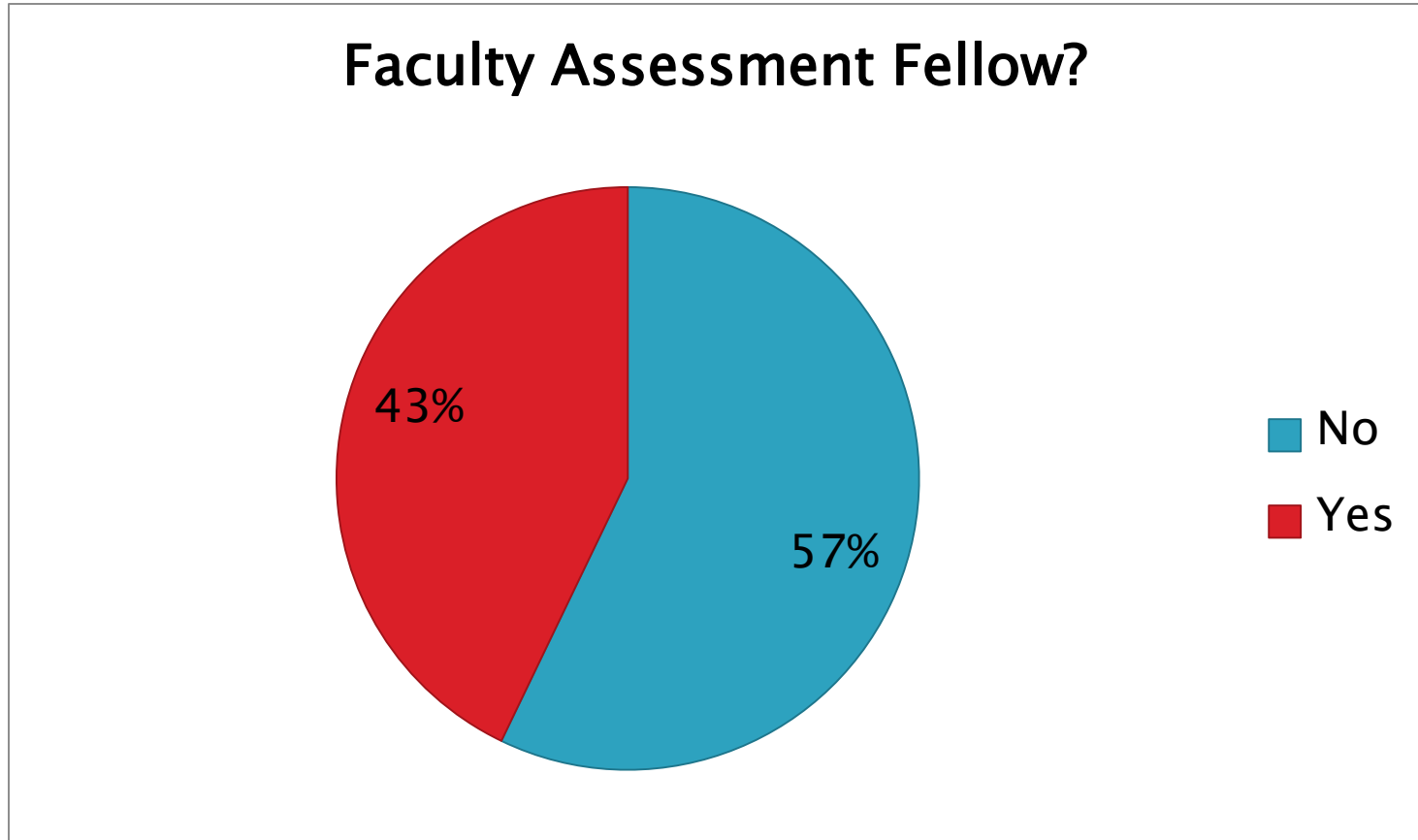
## ▶ Objective:

- To assess how much we have advanced a culture of assessment in Massachusetts and to identify opportunities to deepen and strengthen the practice of assessment

# Campus Reported Data

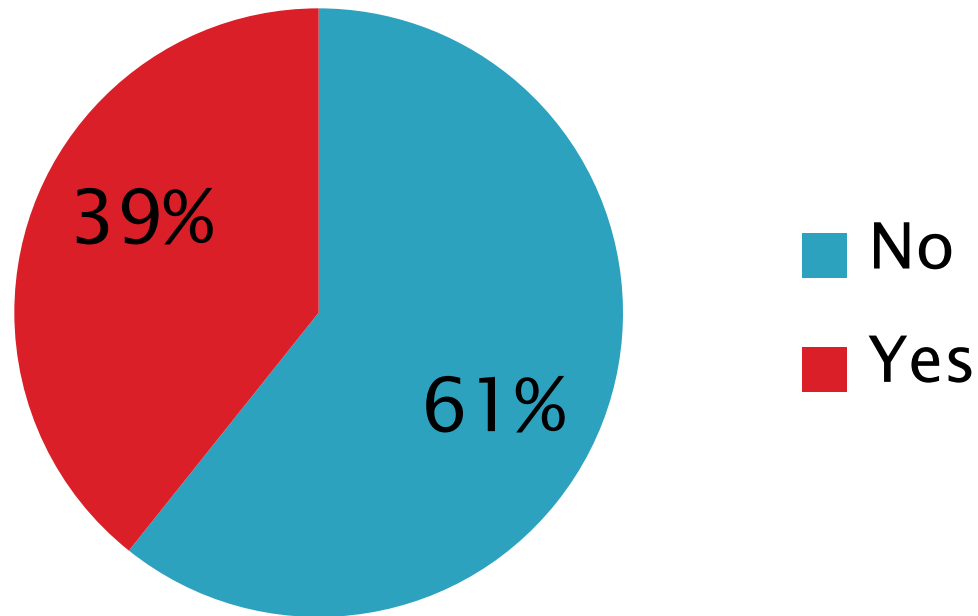


# Campus Reported Data



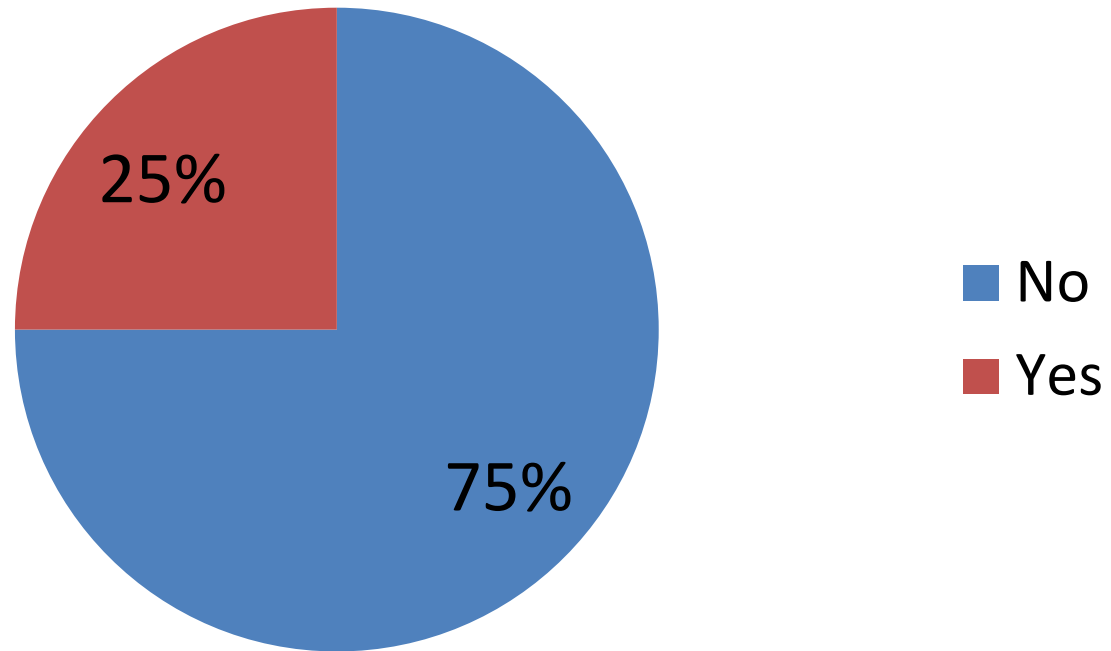
# Campus Reported Data

Members of the MSC?



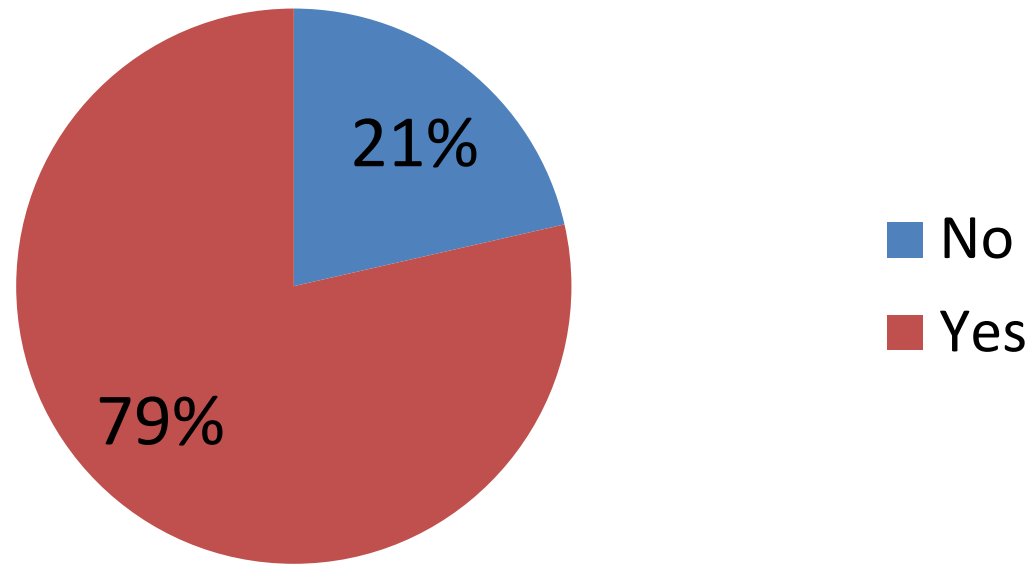
# Campus Reported Data

**Host an assessment day?**



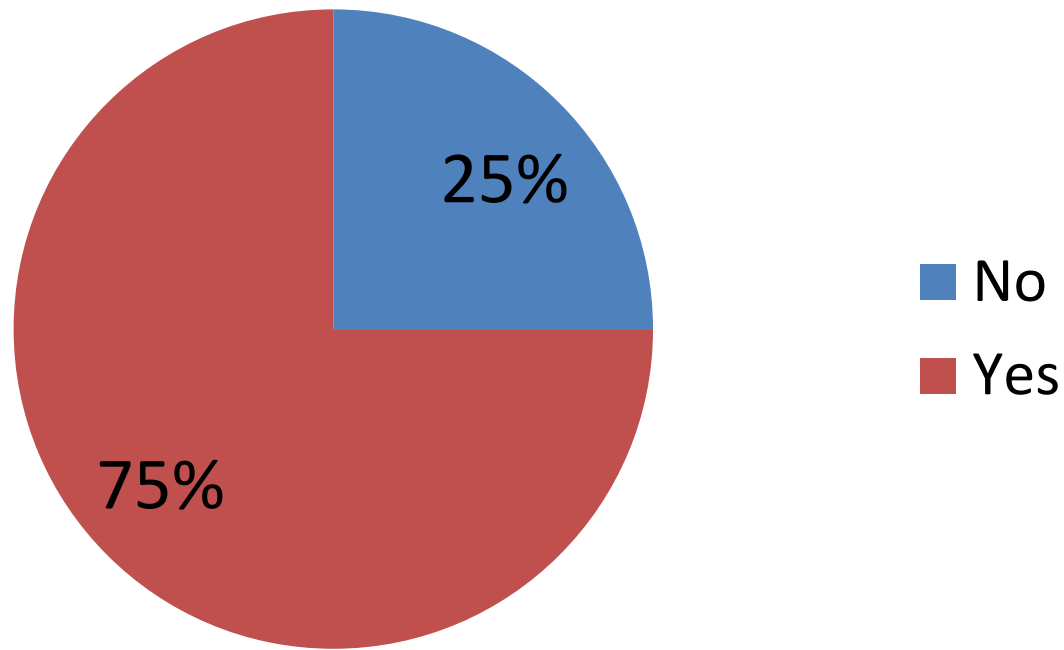
# Campus Reported Data

**Has assessment  
committee?**



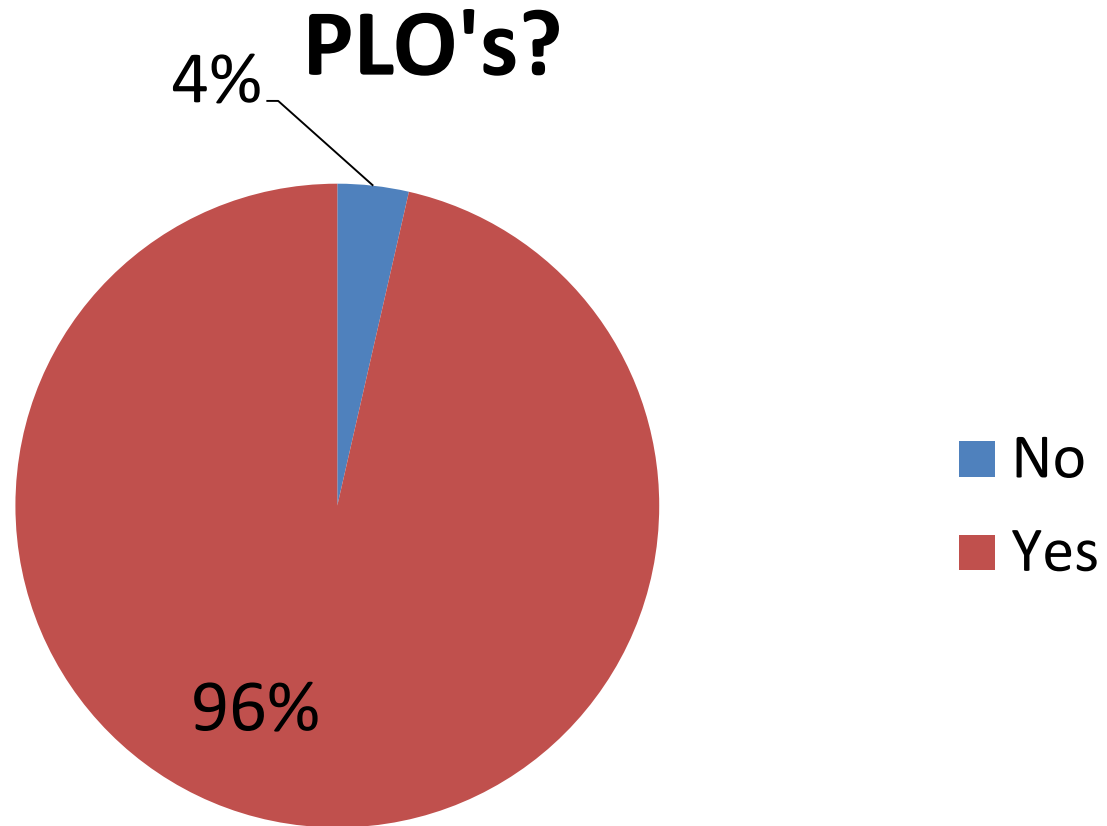
# Campus Reported Data

**ISLO's?**





# Campus Reported Data



# Objective for 2017–2018

- ▶ Shift from viewing assessment as only a form of compliance and advancing a culture of assessment to institutionalizing an improvement paradigm while recognizing:
  - Cutbacks in state spending for higher education
  - Loss of external funding for assessment
  - Some continued faculty and union resistance to assessment
  - Work-to-Rule at the state universities
  - Assessment is an ongoing and essential educational excellence practice expected by key stakeholders

# Planning for 2017–2018

## ▶ Convenings:

### ◦ Amcoa Team:

- Fri., Sept. 29 at Worcester State University
- Thurs., Nov. 30 at Quinsigamond Community College
- Fri., Feb. 2, 2018 at Quinsigamond Community College
- Thurs., Mar. 29, 2018 at Quinsigamond Community College

### ◦ Task Force on Statewide Assessment:

- Tues., Oct. 17 at Worcester State University
- Thurs., Jan. 18, 2018 at Worcester State University
- Fri., Mar. 9, 2018 at Worcester State University

### ◦ Annual Assessment Conference

- Fri., April 20, 2018 at Westborough Doubletree Hotel

# Planning for 2017–2018

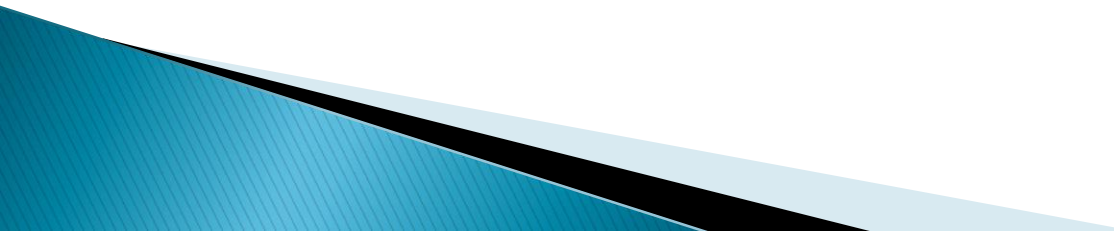
- ▶ Multi-State Collaborative (MSC):
  - MA-MSA Steering Committee Refinement 2.0 Planning Meeting held at Quinsigamond Community College, Sept. 8
  - Increase participation, especially of small institutions to achieve the state sample (i.e., 10 of 10)
  - Conduct comparative analysis of the Demonstration Year (2015–2016) to the Refinement Year (2016–2017) data, and develop specific strategies as a result

# Planning for 2017–2018

- ▶ MassTransfer Pathways;
  - Continued work on foundational disciplines including:
    - Business Administration
    - Communication & Media Studies
    - Computer Science
    - Early Childhood Education
    - English
    - Liberal Arts (General Education Foundation)
    - Physics
    - Psychology (6 of 8; 2 already completed)



# Planning for 2017–2018

- ▶ Institutionalizing Assessment:
    - Developing ISLOs
    - Focusing on Departmental Assessment as a pocket of readiness
    - Encouraging the creation of Assessment Days
    - Strengthening Faculty Teaching Skills
    - Improving the Utility of MSC Data Statewide and at the Campus Level
- 

# Planning for 2017–2018

- ▶ **Regional Professional Development**
  - Begin regional professional planning earlier
  - Resize the regional structure to encourage greater collaboration
  - Utilize these sessions to expand the conversations about assessment to a larger audience
- ▶ **Continued Education of Key Stakeholders:**
  - The Board of Higher Education
  - Presidents of State Universities and Community Colleges
  - Chancellors in the University of Massachusetts System

# Conclusion

