

TRIAL COURT PERFORMANCE MEASURES COMMITTEE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The trial court performance committee is charged with promoting the use of valid and reliable performance measures by the trial courts, promoting dialogue regarding court performance and data sharing between each court and its funding unit, and developing and implementing strategies to accomplish these objectives. The committee is aware that deciding what to measure is very important, in part because scarce resources will likely be diverted to the measured items. Therefore, the committee agrees that, in deciding what to measure and how to measure it, the following guiding principles should be employed:

1. Is the measure relevant; i.e., does the measure matter and clearly relate to the activity being measured?
2. Is the measure reliable; i.e., is the data verifiable, free from bias and an accurate representation of what it is intended to be?
3. Will the measure help understand, manage and improve performance?
4. Will the measure significantly deter courts from launching or continuing beneficial programs such as drug courts, or granting adjournments in the interest of justice?
5. How useful is the measure to the (a) courts, (b) public, (c) other court users and (d) funding units, and should that affect how the measure is published?
6. Is it possible to measure this item without increasing costs to courts?
7. Can context be accurately reflected?
8. Is this measure mostly beyond courts' influence?