

MAC NEWS

The Newsletter of the
MICHIGAN
ASSESSMENT
CONSORTIUM

FALL 2012 VOL 5, ISSUE 1



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Exciting New Work for the MAC

Coming home from the MAC Board of Directors fifth annual retreat, one could not help having the feeling of a sense of accomplishment of an organization that is so young. In addition, there are a number new projects and initiatives planned for this year and beyond. Now that the MAC is incorporated, opportunities to create resources for Michigan are increasing; all opportunities focus on improving the use of assessment to improve teaching and learning. Several of these ongoing and new initiatives are outlined here in this edition of the MAC News. MAC members are working hard to improve the assessment literacy of educators and non-educators alike. These volunteers hope to make a difference in education for our students. Please join us in our efforts to improve how assessment can help students learn.

2012-13 Professional Development Programs

Three new videoconferences are planned for Michigan. These include the following:

- **SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Update: What's New!** Vince Dean, Michigan Department of Education. Friday, September 28, 9-10:30 am. Find out what is new with the work in creating a multi-state system of assessments, as well as the transition to these assessments expected in the 2014-15 school year.
- **Thinking About Changing Your Grading and Assessment Practices? Why It's Worth Doing – For Your Students and for YOU!** Amy Hodgson, Superintendent, Dansville Schools. Tuesday, October 2, 2-3:30 pm. Learn how the school system progressed from traditional grading and assessment to a student-centered, proficiency and standards-based approach.
- **Measuring Growth Without a Measuring Tape: What Teachers Need to Consider in Thinking About Teacher Effectiveness.** Sara Bryant, Measured Progress. Monday, April 15, 1-2:30 pm. This session will describe ways to measure teacher effectiveness through a teacher-moderated scoring system for use with student performance assessments.

The programs, can serve as an excellent basis for professional learning community-style, professional development on assessment. Be sure to use these sessions to improve the knowledge and skills of educators in your area. Responses from users has been extremely positive.

These sessions can be watched live on the date of presentation, or viewed in the archive later at <http://www.mistreamnet.com>. A link to this website can be found on the MAC website. A recorded copy of each of these sessions can be purchased for a nominal cost of \$10 plus \$4 shipping, contact Brenda Hose at hoseb@resa.net.



Get involved today!
Membership in the MAC
is now available!
Consider showing your
support and
volunteering your talent!

For more information on
membership, or to
download a membership
form, visit our website:

MI Assessment Standards for Educators and Policymakers

The MAC has drafted a set of MI Assessment Literacy Standards, for teachers, building and district administrators, and state and local policymakers. The draft was developed from lists of assessment standards, based on work of national professional organizations, groups and experts in the field. The intent is to help these educators and policy makers become knowledgeable about the assessment practices that support student learning, in the context of balanced, comprehensive and quality assessment systems. The MAC also plans to use the Standards as the basis for future professional learning activities sponsored by the MAC.

An invitation to comment on the standards, will be posted on the MAC website in the coming months.

MDE/MAC Continue to Promote the Formative Assessment Process

The new cohort of 64 coaches and approximately 500 K-12 Michigan educators have begun the 5th year of training in the use of formative assessment in the Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) project. A description of the project as currently designed can be found on the MDE/BAA website.

Each first year Coach received a webinar of advance training and then spent an additional day with their Learning Team at a Launch Into Learning session on formative assessment. Second and third year Coaches and Learning Teams will continue their work on using formative assessment strategies in their classrooms. The Launch Into Learning sessions will be directed by several MI regional leaders who were recruited and trained last year to support the local learning teams in their region. New Regional Leads are being trained this year in order to expand the reach of FAME next year.

Each Learning Team is being provided professional development as well as support materials and resources to begin deepening their understanding of the formative assessment process.

A variety of learning topics and learning materials have been provided to Coaches and teams, on topics such as feedback for learning, self-assessment, and using assessment to adjust instruction, have been provided to all Coaches.

MSU is conducting formal quantitative and qualitative research on some of the Learning Teams and teachers. Amelia Gotwals is directing the work of the research team to survey all participants, as well as videotape a few Learning Teams and some of the teachers on these Teams. Although efforts such as Michigan's to show teachers how to use formative assessment in their classroom are not uncommon, research on the impacts of such efforts is not typical. A summary and a presentation of this research can be found at the BAA website:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_55936-254375--,00.html

<http://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org>

MAC Board of Directors

The following individuals are serving as the MAC Board this school year

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Instructional Committee co-chair

Mike Hill, TBA ISD MAISA
Instructional Committee co-chair

Please feel free to contact any of the Board members regarding the MAC. Persons interested in getting involved in MAC projects are welcome.

Common Assessment Development Series

The 24-module training program designed to show local educators how to build common assessments is completed and available on the MAC website. Each major step in the common assessment development process is detailed with PowerPoint, script, accompanying handouts, and suggestions for use. The modules are available from several sources, including the MAC website, from Wayne RESA (\$10/module), and mistreamnet.com. There is no cost to use these materials, the project was sponsored through MAISA.

<http://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/common-assessment-module-series>

Implementation of Career and College Readiness Standards

One of the challenges of implementing Common Core State Standards/CCRS in mathematics and reading/language arts is the lack sufficiently detailed curriculum to assist local districts as they adapt instruction and assessment to these new standards. However, the General Education Leadership Network from MAISA is supporting development of model Units of Study. First initiated with Oakland Schools and then supported statewide, this curriculum effort develops, pilots, and refines model units – you may find this work at:

<http://gomaisa-public.rubiconatlas.org>

Also of note...The MAC has offered to assist the *MAISA Unit Project Initiative* 2012-13 pilot in the review of assessments embedded in the mathematics and ELA instructional units.

What about Social Studies...*The Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (SSACI) Collaborative*, facilitated by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), consists of 23 states currently working on state standards for social studies in collaboration with the National Council for Social Studies and 14 other content organizations. SSACI will identify ways in which these new standards in social studies will support the Common Core English Language Arts standards and will design resources that will support teachers in meeting both sets of standards. *Empowering Social Studies Teachers for Smarter Balanced Assessment Training* will be taking place across the state. Educators will have the opportunity to work with other educators to learn more about the structure of the new SBAC assessments. By the completion of the project, a bank of test items similar in format to the SBAC ones, will be completed via a contribution and juried process, focusing on social studies. :<http://nmlcss.wikispaces.com/Empowering+Social+Studies+Teachers+for+SMARTER+Balanced+Assessment+-+REGISTRATION+DETAIL>

Book Review: *Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*

Like great business books in the past, *Start With Why* harbors a powerful message for those of us involved with education at every level. Author Simon Sinek informs us that whether we are a teacher, administrator, board member, or legislator, we must first determine WHY a lesson, policy, school improvement plan, assessment, or piece of legislation is important. Then we must be able to articulate the WHY to those affected by it. Only when others are able to understand and connect with the WHY on an emotional level will they be prepared to process and accept the WHAT and the HOW of the issue or action. Given the current spotlight on assessment and accountability, anyone involved in these realms must be fully prepared to communicate not only the what and the how, but most critically the WHY. As the author says, "People don't buy WHAT you do, they buy WHY you do it." RX by Deb Asano

Improving student learning and achievement through coherent curriculum, balanced assessment and effective instruction.



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Emerging Best Practice in MI: Check Out the MAC Website to Hear from *Reflective Assessor* Amy Hodgson

Check out the MAC website to see new features, such as the Reflective Assessor, which contains longer pieces from teachers and administrators reflecting on their assessment practices. Read, *Why Do We Continue To Do Unto Others As Was Done Unto Us? The Moral Imperative to Change Grading and Assessment Practices to Benefit All*, by Amy Hodgson. Intrigued...watch the MAC sponsored video conference on 10/2/2012 *Thinking About Changing Your Grading and Assessment Practices? Why It's Worth Doing* And consider a site visit with Dansville Schools on the topic of *Standards-Based Grading and Formative Assessment* 11/13/2012 or 2/12/2013 Go to: <http://www.gomiem.org/event/standards-based-grading-and-formative-assessment---site-visits-educators>

Become a MAC Member!

One tangible way in which you can support the MAC – and support improved student assessment in the state - is by becoming a member of the MAC. Much like supporting public television, levels of support for the MAC are based on the value you and your organization place on the work of the MAC – the videoconferences, collaborative assessment development, and other MAC-sponsored projects.

Membership means the following activities will continue and expand:

- Professional development for educators and their organizations.
- An increasing number of sample assessments of high quality, reflective of MI curriculum and not commercial products.
- Training modules and white papers on a variety of assessment topics.
- Newsletters and a website that connect educators interested in quality assessment practices across the state as well as innovative practices across the U.S.
- Advocacy for quality assessment practices in the state of Michigan.

2012-13 Membership Application

Organization Name _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone & E-Mail _____

| Educational | | |
|---|---|--|
| Individuals | Organizations | Business Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner - \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner - \$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$1750 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member - \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Member - \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Member - \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor - \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other - \$ _____ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - \$ _____ |

Send your check or purchase order to:

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1001 Centennial Way, Suite 300
Lansing, MI 48917