

# MAC NEWS

The Newsletter of the  
**MICHIGAN**  
**ASSESSMENT**  
CONSORTIUM

## SPRING 2013 VOL 5, ISSUE 2



### SPECIAL INTEREST:

Exciting New Work for the MAC.....	1
MI Assessment Literacy Standards.....	2
Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Program.....	3

### INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Current PD Programs.....	1
MAC Assessment Literacy Standards for Educators, Policymakers, and Students	2
MDE/MAC Formative Assessment Work.....	2
Common Assessment Development Modules.....	2
Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Project.....	3
Supporting the MAC.....	4

## Exciting New Work for the MAC

The MAC is wrapping up its fifth year of operation – and the first as an incorporated non-profit – with exciting new activity and work. All of these opportunities focus on improving assessment in order 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, as well as provide assessment-related resources that will improve the quality of assessments used in our schools. 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.

## Current Professional Development Programs

Two new videoconferences have already taken place this year and one more is planned for this spring. 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. <http://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/resources>  
A complete list of archived videoconferences may be found on the MAC resources page.

These sessions can be watched live on the date of presentation, or viewed in the archive later at <http://www.mistreamnet.com>. 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](mailto:hoseb@resa.net).



Get involved today!  
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is now available!  
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[Michiganassessmentconsortium.org](http://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org)

## MI Assessment Literacy Standards for Educators and Policymakers

The MAC has drafted a set of MI Assessment Literacy Standards, for teachers, building and district administrators, state and local policymakers, and students. The standards are categorized by dispositions, knowledge, and performance. The draft was developed from lists of assessment standards in the literature, as well as based on the work of national professional organizations, groups and experts in the field. The intent is to help educators, students, and policy makers become knowledgeable about the assessment practices that support student learning, in the context of balanced, comprehensive and quality assessment systems. An invitation to comment on the standards will be posted on the MAC website: [www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org](http://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org). spring 2013.

MI Assessment Literacy Standards will be the foundation for future professional learning activities sponsored by the MAC and we hope will positively inform education policy and pre-service preparation in the state of Michigan.

## MDE/MAC Continue to Promote the Formative Assessment Process

### FAME

The new cohort of 64 coaches and approximately 500 K-12 Michigan educators began the 5<sup>th</sup> year of training in the use of formative assessment strategies in their classrooms last fall, through the Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) project. A description of the project as currently designed can be found on the MDE/BAA website. [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_55936---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_55936---,00.html)

MSU continues to conduct formal quantitative and qualitative research on some of the Learning Teams and teachers. Amelia Gotwals, MSU assistant professor, 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. A session paper and PPT can be found at the link below.

[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_55936-254375--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_55936-254375--,00.html)

## E-Library for Formative Assessment Tools/Resources

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium will be developing an on-line digital library designed to be a one-stop site with professional development opportunities to teach more about balanced assessment systems, in particular formative assessment practices. The digital library is envisioned to have an extensive selection of resources necessary to transform classroom instructional and classroom assessment practices in support of student readiness for college and career readiness. Michigan is in process of identifying 75-90 MI educators to identify and recommend resources for the Digital Library and to promote the use of the completed e-library.

## 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](http://mistreamnet.com). There is no cost to use these materials, the project was sponsored through MAISA.

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

## MAC Board of Directors

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

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Kevin Konarska, Kent ISD MAISA  
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.

Questions: 517.927.7640  
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# MAC Leads Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Project

**OVERVIEW** In an exciting first for the MAC, work began late last year on the development of several resources for Michigan's schools in arts education. The planned resources include:

- MI Arts Education Instructional Blueprint – A description of a gold-standard, high quality K-12 instructional program in the arts
- MI Arts Education Audit Tool – A self-study measure to determine the adequacy of the K-12 arts education program in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts
- MI Arts Education Assessment Specifications – The plan and proposal for K-12 assessments in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts

**CONTRIBUTORS** The MAC is working in conjunction with Data Recognition Corporation in creating these products, with the support of the Michigan Department of Education Bureau of Assessment and Accountability. The project management team for the project includes: Kathy Dewsbury-White, Barb Michelutti, Cheryl Poole, and Ed Roeber, with Ana Cardona, the SAEDAE Representative. Field expertise is being added through three work groups: Blueprint Writers, Assessment Specification Developers & In-depth reviewers.

**THE BLUEPRINT** The Michigan Arts Education Instructional Blueprint will help define the learning experiences that should be available to all students K-12 in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. It will also help to define the manner in which this instruction is to be provided, by whom, and in what ways.

**THE AUDIT TOOL** A companion to the Instructional Blueprint will be an audit tool. The Michigan Arts Education Audit Tool will be a survey or other type of instrument. As currently conceived, the Audit Tool will be a self-study guide for local educators to use to determine the adequacy of the arts education program and to note areas where improvements are needed. It will also be useful in educator evaluation to help local districts determine the fairness of the evaluation processes for individual arts educators. We hope to pilot the Blueprint and Audit Tool fall 2013 or winter 2014.

**ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS** The assessment specifications document will describe the design of the arts education assessments that the MAC hopes to help create during the next two school years. The goal of this assessment project is to create a balanced approach to assessment, with summative, interim benchmark, and formative components. The Arts Education Assessment Specifications document will also illustrate the nature of the different types of assessments that might be created in dance, music, theatre, or visual arts through the development or selection of several prototype exercises. We intend to use a variety of types of assessment formats, especially performance assessments, written response items, and in some cases, multiple-choice items.

Actual arts assessments are presently slated to be developed in two phases (2013-14: High School and 2014-15: K-12).

MAIEA Project information, accompanying resources and regular updates can be found at <http://mi-arts.wikispaces.com>

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



## MAC News

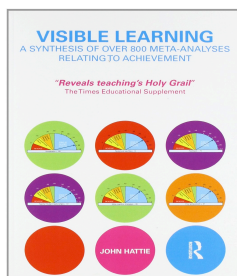
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**Book Corner** by John Hattie *Visible Learning: A synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses relating to achievement* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2009). Many of the findings are consistent with good assessment practices.



## 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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