



Year in Review 2015–2016

ABOUT THE MAC

Michigan Assessment Consortium – also known as The MAC – is a professional association of educators who believe quality education depends on accurate, balanced, meaningful assessment. As a mission-driven, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, the MAC is focused on providing leadership and service on the topic of quality, balanced assessment practices and systems.

MISSION

The mission of the MAC is to improve student learning and achievement through a system of coherent curriculum, balanced assessment and effective instruction. We do this by collaboratively:

- Promoting assessment knowledge and practice
- Providing professional learning opportunities
- Providing and sharing assessment tools and resources



ASSESSMENT RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The MAC creates tools and resources that improve and enhance the quality of available assessments in the state of Michigan.

Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Program



A National Model

MAEIA is a story about a cross-sector collaboration of partners who prioritized the use of one-time appropriated funds to develop resources and tools, and the means to use them, so that schools can strengthen and advance arts as a core element of a public education.

Since 2012 over 1,000 Michigan arts educators have contributed to the MAEIA project. They researched, wrote, reviewed, piloted, scored, identified exemplars, and presented to colleagues across the state and nation.

The Catalyst

The MAEIA project started with the release of 2011 Arts Census data, updated and State Board–approved *MI Arts Content Standards* (2011) and leadership from the MI Department of Education (MDE) who commissioned resources and tools for arts educators through innovative project development of the MAC.

The Resources

The MDE commissioned a comprehensive package of resources and tools arts educators will use to increase access to high-quality arts education programs and practice in Michigan's schools. *The Blueprint of a Quality Arts Education Program*, the compendium of *Research and Recommendations* and the *Program Review Tool* combine to permit districts to engage in purposeful and systemic program improvement and enhancements. The catalog of over 350 MAEIA curriculum-embedded performance tasks and events was compiled from assessment specifications designed explicitly to assess the creative process.

The MI Assessment Consortium partnered with Data Recognition Corporation to lead the development of what became MAEIA. Fall 2016 marks the public release for these resources. Site launching fall 2016: MAEIA-artsednetwork.org.

MAEIA IN ACTION

More than 50,000 students were scheduled to try out a model MAEIA performance assessment this year. More than 25,000 artifacts of student work will be examined: including recorded pieces of music, photography, ceramic work, drawings and paintings, dance performances, theatre works, and written reflections responding to works of art and reflecting on one's own work. Samples of student work "exemplars" are coordinated with the performance level and dimension on the rubric developed for the performance tasks and events. Examples of student work will be available on the MAEIA-artsnetwork—coming soon.

MAEIA in National Spotlight

- Michigan and Tennessee presented together on "The Power of Performance Assessment: An Arts Assessment Program as a Model for All Disciplines" at the CCSSO sponsored National Conference on Student Assessment in San Diego, CA, in June 2015.
- Look for a sample MAEIA Model Assessment to be featured in the new *Oxford Handbook of Assessment Policy and Practice in Music Education*. Cindy Crump Taggart, professor of music education, MSU and Ryan Shaw, assistant professor of music, Capital University, co-authored a chapter for this new text and provided leadership for the MAEIA music item writing teams.
- In March 2016 a national webinar for the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) updated states about the MAEIA

project. As a result, MAEIA has been invited to present at the SEADAE Arts Assessment Symposium (Nov. 2016) and to exhibit at the National Assembly of State Arts Education Associations (Sept. 2016). New Hampshire became a partner in the new MAEIA-artsednetwork (May 2016). MAEIA Arts Education Network (MAEIA-artsednetwork.org) is a virtual arts education community where educators, administrators, parents, and community members across multiple art forms, grade-spans, and teaching/learning environments, can access resources, find news about arts education, access support, converse about teaching and learning in the arts, and use and discuss MAEIA resources.



Assessment Literacy Q&A

This 14-minute video asks five key questions about assessment literacy. Viewers hear a powerful message in response. vimeo.com/97668950

ASSESSMENT LEADERSHIP

The MAC garners support for its Assessment Literacy Standards for the purpose of developing future in-service and pre-service training, credentialing and policy development.



From left: Jim Popham, Ed Roeber (MAC), Susan Brookhart, Rick Stiggins, Karen Kidwell

Assessment Literacy Standards

Representatives from the MAC presented the Standards at the Council of Chief State School Officers' National Conference on Student Assessment San

Diego, CA 2015. The session was well attended (~175) and the Standards were well received. In addition, the Michigan State Board of Education endorsed the **Assessment Literacy Standards** at their regular meeting on May 10, 2016.

"The MAC Assessment Literacy Standards have triggered a national movement promoting higher levels of educator competence in assessment for the sake of students' academic well-being and overall school effectiveness," said Rick Stiggins, Founder of the Assessment Training Institute.

Assessing Your Own Assessment Literacy

In support of the Assessment Literacy Standards, the MAC is developing a series of self-assessments for teachers, building administrators, district administrators, and local policy makers. They are relatively short, with around 30 selected response items, and are ideal for individual professional use or for more formal professional development. A shorter form of the self-assessment, addressing key common standards for teachers and administrators, is also available.

MI Learns Assessment!

The MAC is drafting a set of eight online modules to help educators increase their assessment literacy. The goal is to put these modules into a digital learning management system for incorporation into a multi-tiered, voluntary credentialing system that allows educators to learn at their own pace, in their own space. This system will allow development of a comprehensive professional learning program that elevates teacher and administrator knowledge, attitudes, and skills around assessment. It also moves us closer to having a certified assessment specialist in every Michigan school.

KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICE

The MAC provides leadership among state and national education organizations on issues important to achieving quality in assessment systems and practices.

In an effort to address the need for assessment-literate educators in a positive way, the **National Task Force on Assessment Education for Teachers** was launched in October 2015. The Task Force comprises three advisors and 24 educators from 17 states, including pre-service and in-service educators, assessment experts and thought leaders. The goal of the Task Force is to be a collective voice that elevates the national dialogue on assessment education, develops innovative approaches to assessment literacy, and advances existing best practices in assessment. MAC is represented and coordinated the initial work to develop a universal Definition of Assessment Literacy. assessmentliteracy.org

In August 2015, State Superintendent Brian Whiston asked the field, "**What will it take for Michigan to be among the Top 10 premier education states within 10 years?**" Some thirty organizations provided presentations to the State Board of Education, including MAC. Drawing from effective international models the MAC recommends developing a statewide system of assessment that supports learning *and* assures the public that students are receiving a world-class education. "We need a system of public assurance that measures the impact of schooling and strengthens both classroom learning and the schools that provide it." To read the full recommendation go to the **MAC's Resources page, then click Presentations.**

RESEARCH & EVALUATION



Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators

This statewide MDE project is leading the nation, training hundreds of teachers to coach their districts on using assessment as part of the instructional process to support and advance learning. The MAC provides research and evaluation services for FAME and was excited to support the development of a game-changing observation protocol that select teachers used to examine their own formative assessment practice.

Formative Assessment Rubrics, Reflection, and Observation Protocol (FARROP)

MAC is pleased to join Oakland Schools, Ann Arbor Public Schools and the MDE for a 2016-17 research award sponsored by West Ed, through FAST SCASS and underwritten by the Hewlett Foundation. 32 MI secondary mathematics teachers will use a modified lesson study framework with the FA protocol, called FARROP, to reflect on their practice.

Measuring Growth Using Model MAEIA Assessments

In February 2016, eight arts educators (music, dance, theatre, and visual arts) embarked on developing a Student Learning Objective (SLO) to try out during the 2016-17 academic year. These SLOs incorporate a MAEIA Model Assessment as one measure to gauge student growth. A white paper and administration manual continue to be revised as we refine our ability to talk about effective use of the MAEIA performance assessments in educator effectiveness plans.

These teachers will present their experiences at the Arts First conference (Aug. 2015) and the Michigan Music Educator's Conference (Jan. 2017). **One of the sample arts-based SLOs** was featured at the MI School Testing Conference (Feb. 2016). Find more at sitimeline.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

MAC accomplishes its work through volunteers and collaborative work with other organizations. Want to support the use of the Assessment Literacy Standards? Follow the **link on the MAC's home page.**



*Find resources in bold black type by searching the term at MichiganAssessmentConsortium.org

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The MAC pursues collaborations that strengthen quality & comprehensive assessment systems and practices in the state of Michigan.

Collaborations Deepen

In 2015-16 we developed and strengthened relationships with new and continuing partner organizations. Here are some highlights.

We co-sponsored:

- Designing and Developing A Balanced Comprehensive Assessment Program at the District and School Levels. (Feb. 2016) This 2-day training was packed with school and district leaders eager to engage in planning to streamline and ensure quality practice. **By MAC and MI ASCD**
- Grading and Reporting with Myron Dueck. (Aug. 2015 and Oct. 2015) This popular practitioner and presenter from British Columbia will return in 2016-17. **By Kent ISD, MI ASCD, and MAC**
- Use of Descriptive Feedback with Susan Brookhart. (Feb. 2016) A consummate researcher and a practical translator of complex concepts, Sue kept more than 100 educators captivated. **By Oakland Schools, MI ASCD and MAC**

MAC, Learning Forward & MI ASCD

MAC participated in a year-long learning team to grow its understanding of Collaborative Inquiry and hopes to embark on future learning ventures using this framework with other participating organizations (e.g., MEMPSA, MASSP, SchoolAdvance).

MAC and MAISA

MAC serves as a partner organization to MAISA and its General Education Leadership Network (GELN). MAC was proud to promote the superb work of the SAT Task Force (2015-16). GELN endorsed the use of the **Assessment Literacy Standards** in May 2015.

MAC and MI Association of School Administrators

MAC partnered with MASA at their fall 2015 conference to provide a session for superintendents about resources and tools available to pursue and achieve balanced assessment systems. Novi Public Schools contributed to this session with a superb presentation recounting their district's journey and progress aligning district standards to "blueprinted" assessments.

MAC and TRIG

As TRIG debuted Edupaths (Feb. 2017) MAC was pleased to have participated on the PL Advisory group and contributed some initial short course content for the new site.

MAC and MI School Testing Conference

MAC supported the 56th MI School Testing Conference in Ann Arbor—sponsored by UM College of Education and MEIM, co-directed by Terry Davidson and Ed Roeber, and attended by more than 500 Michigan educators. MAC participates on the executive and planning committees and supplies workshop and clinic sessions presented or arranged by MAC board members and members, including:

Supporting Pre-service Teachers Amelia Wenk Gotwals and Corey Drake, MSU

College Eligible is Not the Same as College Ready David Dugger, Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium

Measuring the Assessment Literacy of Educators – Using the MAC's Assessment Literacy Self-Assessments to Build Assessment Literacy Ed Roeber, MAC; Denise Brady, Shiawassee RESD; Paul Stemmer Michigan Department of Education

Growing Formative Assessment Practices in Educators Amy Weesies, Hart High School and Kimberly Young, Michigan Department of Education

Using Student Growth Percentiles for Measuring Student Growth—Promise & Challenges David Treder, Genesee ISD and Ed Roeber, MAC

Effective Grading Practices: Reframing the Conversation, Refocusing on Learning Lisa Madden, Genesee ISD and Kevin Brown, Davison Community Schools

Why, What and How of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) Doug Greer, Ottawa Area ISD

Re-teach and Enrich with Formative Assessments: The Story of a Priority School Heather Rottermond, Livingston ESA and Washtenaw ISD; Nina Harris and Connie Ray, Ypsilanti Community Schools

Helping Teachers Learn to Use Formative Assessment Strategies in their Classrooms Dennis Chandler, Michigan Assessment Consortium; Ellen Vorenkamp, Wayne RESA

Developing and Using Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessment—The MAEIA Example Michael Letts, Northern Michigan University and Ed Roeber, MAC

Improving the Quality of Locally-Developed Assessments Ellen Vorenkamp, Wayne RESA

MI Assessment Learning Kathryn Dewsbury-White, MAC; Ellen Vorenkamp, Wayne RESA; Ed Roeber, MAC; and Kimberly Young, Michigan Department of Education

Supporting MI Educators in Implementing the Formative Assessment Process Kimberly Young, Michigan Department of Education/FAME Project; Ingrid Dettman, Corunna Schools; Dennis Chandler, MAC Research Team Consultant



MAC Reads! Webinar

Watch National Assessment Expert, Sue Brookhart's MAC Reads! Webinar (March 2016) at: **vimeo.com/158091334/0498d2123f**

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

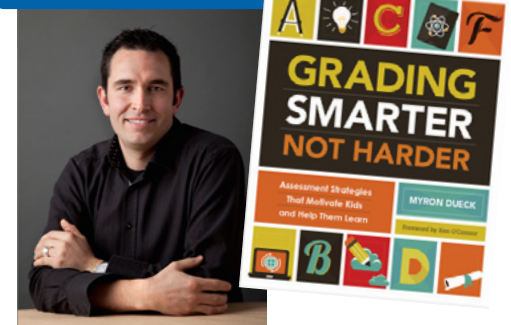
The MAC creates and delivers professional learning opportunities for educators that deepen and enhance understanding of assessment practices that advance learning.

MAC Reads!

This unique professional learning model results in partnerships with ISDs and districts across the state that serve as regional hosts for study groups, they elect to read and learn together. This year the book was *Formative Classroom Walkthroughs*, a 2016 publication by Susan Brookhart. The reading culminates with a real-time webinar with the author. These agencies partnered with MAC to provide study groups.

- Allegan Area ESA
- Copper County ISD
- Eastern UP ISD
- Genesee ISD/TRIG Edupaths (all virtual statewide)
- Jackson ISD
- Kent ISD
- Marquette Alger ISD
- Mecosta Osceola ISD
- Muskegon Area ISD
- Reeths Puffer School District
- Wayne RESA

Join us in 2016-17 when MAC Reads! Myron Dueck: *Smarter Assessment in the Secondary Classroom and Grading Smarter Not Harder*



Ready to join or renew?

Visit our membership page to join the MAC today.

MichiganAssessmentConsortium.org/join-the-mac

Membership

The MAC is a professional association of members who believe quality education depends on accurate, meaningful assessment that supports learning first, and verifies learning second. When educators use assessment to guide teaching and enhance learning, students learn more.

Michigan Assessment Consortium promotes excellence in assessment knowledge and practice. Its members have access to a rich library of assessment resources, including assessment literacy standards, a suite of student performance assessments for arts education and papers on assessment best practice. Members also have opportunities for professional learning through events, book studies, videoconferences and online courses.

Membership Benefits

- Advocacy for quality assessment practices in Michigan
- Newsletter and website that connect educators interested in quality assessment practices across the state, as well as innovative practices across the U.S.
- An increasing number of high quality sample assessments, reflective of Michigan curriculum.
- Access to professional development events, tools and resources.

MAC Members...

- Are individuals and organizations interested in quality assessment practices.
- Work in public and private schools, local and regional districts, government agencies, professional associations, and institutes of higher learning.
- Embrace high standards of excellence.
- Understand that quality assessment is key to quality learning and student achievement.
- Value professional learning and continuous improvement.

See our complete membership roster*.

MAC eNEWS

MAC eNews was published 9 times in 2015-16. Back issues are available on the [Resources page of the MAC website](#).



Quality education depends on accurate, balanced, meaningful assessment.

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To learn more about the Michigan Assessment Consortium and the resources it has created:

MichiganAssessmentConsortium.org

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