



Frequently Asked Questions

Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment ISD/ESA

We're so glad you asked!

[Link to glossary of terms used in the ABCA program](#)

1. What is the purpose of the ABCA for ISD/ESA consultants?

The purpose of ABCA is to increase ISD/ESA consultant knowledge about the ways that effective classroom assessment practices can increase student achievement, and to prepare consultants to support local districts in developing such practices.

ISD/ESA consultants will deepen their understanding of classroom assessment—both the formative assessment process (assessment for learning) and summative assessments (assessments of learning). In addition, they will explore ways to integrate their new knowledge within their current ISD/ESA roles. The ABCA program includes structured learning sessions, facilitation consultation, and high-quality resources.

2. What should an ISD/ESA participant expect to gain from this learning opportunity?

Participants will gain a deepened understanding of:

ISD/ESA consultants will deepen their understanding and knowledge of:

- a balanced assessment system implemented within a classroom setting;
- assessment literacy and what educators should know, do, and believe as they work to improve the balance of assessment at the classroom level;
- assessment for learning (the formative assessment process) and assessment of learning (summative assessments) and how they work together to enhance student learning and increase student achievement;
- formative assessment as a process to plan, deliver, and reflect on instruction;
- the proper use of interim/benchmark assessments to monitor and/or verify student learning;
- the role of assessment in the continuous improvement process and how to implement a balanced assessment system using the MICIP framework;
- the integration of assessment practices and strategies mentioned above into current ISD related responsibilities;
- facilitation skills to deliver meaningful learning opportunities for constituent districts beginning in Year 2; and
- other participants and their efforts as we share successes and challenges during our “Collaborative Huddles.”

3. Who should become an ABCA ISD/ESA participant?

Individual ISD/ESA consultants or (preferably teams) of consultants, who have some responsibility for assessment related topics and/or who integrate assessment-related concepts and practices within the focus of their content related positions.

For Instance:

- Assessment Consultants

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- Content-Area Consultants i.e., ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies
- Curriculum and Instruction Consultants
- Data Consultants
- Instructional Technology Consultants
- Continuous Improvement Consultants
- Special Education Consultants

4. What is the commitment for Year 1?

In Year 1, structured learning sessions will be offered that will cover topics listed below. Each session will connect content to application and provide facilitation ideas for future use.

- Selecting and Assessing Priority Standards
- Assessment Literacy for Educators and the Role of Assessment in Continuous Improvement
- Balanced Assessment Systems – Part 1
- Balanced Assessment Systems – Part 2
- Formative Assessment Process – Part 1
- Formative Assessment Process – Part 2
- Exploring and Using Interim Assessment – Part 1
- Exploring and Using Interim Assessment – Part 2

Optional Session for Year 2: Assessment Learning & Implementation Plan/Continuous Improvement/Planning

5. What is the expectation for the entire duration of the program?

With support from the MAC, ISD/ESA ABCA participants will develop plans for using the information and resources provided during Year 1 to work with one or more constituent school districts in their service area. The goal is to provide ISD/ESA participants with tools and resources to support their constituent districts to become more effective in the use of school and classroom student assessment to substantially improve student learning. After the constituent district recruited into the ABCA LEA program develops an Assessment Learning and Implementation Plan – the ISD/ESA is supporting the district MiCIP Plan.

The chart below provides a general overview of ISD/ESA and Constituent District work.

Year	ISD/ESA Activities	Constituent Local District(s)
1	ABCA Structured Learning (for ISD/ESA consultants only) Focus will be to prepare ISD/ESA consultants to facilitate and coordinate this work with LEAs.	No formal ABCA activity
Optional 2	ISD/ESA staff recruit constituent district team(s) to participate in ABCA LEA program and serve as their Learning Facilitator, helping the LEA develop an Assessment Learning & Implementation Plan (this “ALIP” supports MICIP and future work).	LEA team(s) participates in MAC’s ABCA (year one) structured learning sessions, supported by their ISD/ESA Learning Facilitator(s).

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Year	ISD/ESA Activities	Constituent Local District(s)
As part of ABCA LEA	ISD/ESA continues to deepen understanding and knowledge about student assessment and the role of assessment to support the continuous improvement process, including components needed for successful implementation. Three support meetings for ISD Learning Facilitators are offered, along with continuing access to updated resources.	LEA begins to implement their ALIP. ISD/ESA staff member(s) provide support to LEA site coordinator and team.
<p>Note: This two-year progression (perhaps three years based on LEA participation) is designed to provide sufficient job-embedded professional learning for ISD/ESA consultants to result in confidence and capacity to support and facilitate the work of LEAs related to innovation and implementation in classroom assessment systems. We are customizing year 2 engagement with ISDs based on their needs.</p>		

6. What support/resources will participants have access to?

Participants will have full access to all the resources that have been developed for this program, including Learning Maps, MICIP Strategy Implementation Guides and Planning Tools to support implementation, the Michigan Assessment Consortium Website and Resources, and the expertise from the MAC program management team.

7. Is there a cost for our ISD/ESA to participate in the ABCA ISD/RESA Program?

Costs to participate in year 1 are as follows:

\$2,000 (teams up to 5)

\$3,500 (teams of 6-10)

Costs for participating in years two and three will vary depending on the ISD's level of continuing engagement.

LEAs recruited for participation in the ABCA program (with their ISDs) can enroll at a discounted rate.

8. Who might I contact to get more information?

Ellen Vorenkamp at (810) 923-0327 or evorenkamp@michiganassessmentconsortium.org

See program schedule on next page

Get started today!

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qr.link/q4jXTC
to learn more!



Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment Years 1–2 (2025–2027)

YEAR 1

Site teams will engage in eight virtual learning sessions:

<p>September 2025 through May 2026</p> <p>Meeting time: 9:00 am–noon</p>	<p>September 17: Introduction & Program Overview; Developing a Guaranteed Viable Curriculum, Selecting & Assessing Priority Standards</p>
	<p>October 15: Assessment Literacy for Educators and the Role of Assessment in Continuous Improvement</p>
	<p>November 12: Balanced Assessment Systems Part I</p>
	<p>December 17: Balanced Assessment Systems Part II</p>
	<p>January 14: Formative Assessment Process Part I</p>
	<p>February 18: Formative Assessment Process Part II</p>
	<p>March 25: Exploring and Using Interim Assessment Part I</p>
	<p>April 22: Exploring and Using Interim Assessment Part II</p>
<p>Optional session for those interested in Year 2</p>	
<p>March 4</p>	<p>Preparing Continuous Improvement Plan and Consolidated Grant Application using the ALIP</p>

9:00 – 10:30 am **Collaborative Huddles** offer participants opportunities to network with colleagues statewide, explore resources, problem solve, and share insights.
Dates: October 1, February 4, May 13.

YEAR 2 and beyond as part of ABCA LEA

Year 2

Fall 2026 through Spring 2027

ABCA ISD/ESA participants have the option to recruit constituent districts for the ABCA LEA program and, with assistance from the MAC, engage with them as Learning Facilitators. ISD/ESA consultants will assist LEA teams during their structured learning, help them create an Assessment Learning and Implementation Plan (ALIP), and learn about how to support systems change and improved practice using resources that align with the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP).

Beyond Year 2

Fall 2027 through Spring 2028

ISD/ESA continues to deepen understanding and knowledge about student assessment and the role of assessment to support the continuous improvement process, including components needed for successful implementation. Three support meetings for ISD Learning Facilitators are offered, along with continuing access to updated resources.

Note: LEA districts you recruit are eligible to participate in ABCA LEA program at a discounted rate when someone from your organization serves as the Learning Facilitator.