## Mathematics Formative Assessment

**Uncovering Student Thinking** 



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This definition for formative assessment reflects the research literature and statement articulated by the <u>Council of Chief State School Officers</u>:

Formative assessment is a **process** used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.



#### Key Features of the Formative Assessment Process

•Links goal-oriented assessment and instruction •Promotes learning as well as informs instruction

•Used continuously- before and throughout instruction

•Encourages students to become more aware of their own learning (metacognition) and the ideas of others





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#### FACTS

Formative Assessment Classroom Techniques

•Tangible techniques that can be used purposefully to support various stages of the formative assessment process





Pair up at your tables.

•Open your Math FACT book at random. With your partner, do a quick scan of the page you opened to. What do you see of interest?

•Repeat 2-3 times to get an initial sense of what is contained in the FACT book.

•Be prepared to share an example with the group that particularly interests you and tell why.











#### **Teacher Interview with Student**

Teacher: Is 70 Degrees Warm or Cold?

Student: I don't know

Teacher: *Hint: What temperature does your Mom keep the thermostat on in the house during the winter?* 

Student: At y degrees

Teacher: Y? Can you show me?

Student: OK













#### Probe Examples

•Review 2-3 of the probes provided on handouts pp. 5-9

•What conceptual and procedural knowledge is targeted by the items?

•What conceptual misconceptions and/or procedural difficulties is targeted by the items?









Circle the set with a solution that differs from the others.	Justify your choice.
1.	
a. $y = 3x - 4$	
2y - 6x = -8	
b. $y = \frac{1}{2}x + 3$	
4y - 2x = 10	
c. $y = -2x + 8$	
3y + 6x = 24	
3y + 6x = 24	ģ



























































FACTS align with?



TUDENT THINKING





#### What are the characteristics of Learning Targets and Criteria for Success? Response Card CHECK-IN

•Describe something	
students will do, say or	A:We talked about
produce	I-2 these features of
<ul> <li>Are measureable</li> </ul>	SC
•Can be either Procedural or Process-oriented indicators •Are written in Student	<ul> <li>B:We talked about 3 of these features of SC</li> </ul>
Friendly Language	<ul> <li>C:We talked about all of these features of SC</li> </ul>



Examples of SETS of Targets and Criteria		
Example LI and SC	"Non" Example	
Learning Target: To extend understanding of the place value system to include hundredths Criteria for Success #1: I can read and write decimals to the hundredth place Criteria for Success #2: I can explain why the places in a decimal with hundredths have the values they have	<ul> <li>Today's Targets:</li> <li>I can read decimals to the hundredth place</li> <li>I can write decimals to the hundredth place</li> </ul>	
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Examples of SETS of Targets and Criteria		
Example LI and SC	"Non" Example	
<ul> <li>Essential Question: When does the mean represent the typical value in a set?</li> <li>What We'll Look For:</li> <li>You can create a data set for which the mean is typical</li> <li>You can create a data set for which the mean is not typical</li> <li>You can explain to someone else how you knew your data</li> </ul>	Today's Essential Question: When does the mean represent the typical value in a set?	
set would have a mean that is (or is not) typical	t EDC_famath.edc.org	

Examples of SETS of Targets and Criteria			
Example LI and SC	"Non" Example		
<i>Learning Target:</i> Understand what makes a number sentence	Target: I can determine if a number		
true or false.	sentence is true or		
SC: I can describe at least two	Iaise		
different strategies I can justify whether a			
number sentence is true or false			
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Examples of SETS of Targets and Criteria		
Example LI and SC	"Non" Example	
: Understand strategies that	LI: Begin to master	
ll help me recall math facts.	my math facts	
D:	SC: I will increase my	
T 1 <sup>1</sup> 1 1 1 1	seens on the computor	

Example LI and SC	"Non" Example
LI: Understand strategies that	LI: Begin to master
will help me recall math facts.	my math facts
SC:	SC: I will increase my
o I can describe strategies that	score on the computer
will help me recall facts	game
o I can explain why my	
strategies work	

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## What are Learning Targets and Criteria for Success Sets?

•The **learning target** is: •about Conceptual Understanding or the Key Mathematical Idea to be learned •can target Different Levels of Understanding ( understand how, how to, why, that, etc.) •Lesson Specific but align to a larger mathematics idea •Are written in Student Friendly Language •Includes Success Criteria as the observable evidence of what successful learning looks like and/or sounds like • Includes a both Procedural and Process Success Criteria that as a Collection, provide evidence that the learning target has been met

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#### Create a Learning Target and Paired Success Criteria

•Think about a topic you know well. •Write two different learning targets in student friendly language that demonstrate different levels of knowledge related to understanding the topic.

•For each target write a paired set of success criteria that uses different levels of demonstration.



#### **Formative Assessment**

Council of Chief State School Officers:

Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to **improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.** 











#### Questions in Math Tasks

#### **Fact-First Questioning**

•How: Instead of asking for what is usually the end result or answer, provide both original problem and answer, and ask why or how questions to have students elaborate.

•Why: Students must draw on higher level thought processes than recalling facts and applying procedures.

*Eliciting evidence*: Responses provide a look into higher order student thinking.





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## **Paired Verbal Fluency (PVF)**

•Find a new partner. Someone you haven't talked with much today (turn around to find someone near you)

Decide who is person A and who is person B



#### **Paired Verbal Fluency**

- Person B begins
- •Talk about your reflection
- •Talk for I full minute-Person A just listens
- •Person A Talks
- •Talk about your reflection
- Person B and additional ideas.
- •Talk for 1 full minute-Person B just listens
- •Person B Again •Talk for 40 seconds- Person A listens •Person A Again
- •Talk for 40 seconds- Person B listens



#### Elicitation

•The teachers at the Applewood School were discussing what they do with students' preassessments which most students complete on their own during class time. They agree that the purpose of the pre-assessment is to practice and improve their understanding of concepts that will be on a unit assessment. They each had a different idea about the best way to return their students' work so the students could make revisions. Who do you most agree with and why? CORWIN

#### Who do you most agree with and Who do you most agree with and why? why? •Mr. Albee: " I think it is best mark/grade their work" •Ms. Purrington: "I think it is best •Mr. Albee: " I think it is best mark/grade their work' Response Card CHECK-IN •Ms. Purrington: "I think it is best to provide A: Albee to provide only comments and of to include a grade." Mrs. Martinez: "I think it is best to grade their work but to also provide comments." Mr. Goldsmith: "I think it best to avoid grades and comments conditioned for the statements." only comments and not to include a grade." **B:** Purrington •Mrs. Martinez: "I think it is best to grade C: Martinez their work but to also provide comments." D: Goldsmith •Mr. Goldsmith: "I think it best to avoid grades and comments and focus on effort." and focus on effort.'

•Who do you agree with and why?



#### **Research Sound-bytes**

•"Only Scores" and "Scores with Comments" both led to no improvement

•"Only comments" led to improvement -Butler, 1987,1988,

"If teachers are are providing careful diagnostic comments and then putting a score or a grade, they are wasting their time." (William, 2011. p. 109)



•A review of 40 research reports on the effects of feedback found that what mattered the most was the degree of "mindfulness" in the students that the feedback generated.

-Wiliam, 2011, p.111

•Who do you agree with and

why?



#### **Formative Feedback**

Helps students answer the following questions in relation to the learning target:

•What criteria for success have I met? •What criteria for success haven't I met? •What do I need to do next to reach the target?



#### **Goldilocks Principle**

•Doesn't tell the student what to do but provides a hint, model or cue that moves thinking forward.

•Just the right amount to keep the thinking in the intellectual work in the hands of the student



#### Model, Hint, or Cue Examples

•Model: Look at the problem we did yesterday. Think about how the solution to that problem could help you with this one.

•Cue: Go back to your Math Dictionary. How did you summarize in your own words what this word meant? Think about the definition and how this information might be helpful here.

•Hint: Try finding the cost with easier numbers such as 10 cans for \$2. Use this to help you find a different way to compare the ratios. CORWIN

#### Your Turn

•Review the Student Response 3-6 to exit ticket. In what ways did the student meet the criteria? In what ways has she/he not met the criteria?

•Determine what feedback to provide STUDENT 4







Γ		Next S	steps:	Handout Page 13
	Next Steps Action Plan			
	Formative Assessment Strategies for the Next Month			
	What am I going to try?	What do I need to do to prepare for this?	What additional help might I need in order to do this?	What is my goal timeline?
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Adapted Frayer model : Fredrick, Waune C. and Klausmeier, Herbert J., April 1969, *A Schema for Testing the level of Concept Mastery* (Working Paper No. 16), University of Wisconsin Center for Educational Research

Knowledge Category	Examples
Mathematics Content Knowledge Knowledge about mathematics concepts, processes and skills.	<ul> <li>Knowing how to: count, add two numbers, multiply rational numbers, display data, solve a quadratic function, etc.</li> <li>Knowing why an algorithm works, showing flexibility in representing mathematical situations, justifying mathematically whether the answer makes sense, etc.</li> </ul>
Knowledge of Mathematics and Students An understanding of what makes the learning of specific topics easy or difficult; the conceptions and preconceptions that students of different ages and backgrounds bring with them to the learning of those most frequently taught topics and lessons. <sup>b</sup>	<ul> <li>Understanding the successively more sophisticated ways of thinking about ideas within a topic that follow one another as students learn<sup>c</sup></li> <li>Identifying Learning Targets and Criteria for Success for a lesson</li> <li>Knowledge of overgeneralizations, preconceptions, and/or conceptual misunderstandings that pose barriers to further movement within a progression of learning.</li> </ul>
Knowledge For Teaching Mathematics Concepts, Processes and Skills Ability to understand and/or design instructional tasks both within a lesson and across a series of lessons to support students' movement within a progression of learning.	<ul> <li>Creating example and non-examples concept attainment cards that allow students to generalize about properties and characteristics</li> <li>Using a series of tasks for using manipulatives to build towards generalization of a process (ie decomposing a number by place, need for common denominators, factoring polynomials, etc.)</li> <li>Designing a series of investigatory questions around using a technology application</li> </ul>
Knowledge of Student MetaCognition Understanding how to support students' ability to self-monitor their learning of mathematics.	<ul> <li>Using formative assessment strategies to help students: understand the learning target, communicate their thinking, and reflect on progress towards meeting the success criteria</li> <li>Provide structures and supports that help students learn to self assess their work against the success criteria</li> <li>Help students understand the purpose of feedback and provide ongoing opportunities to receive and respond to feedback provided</li> </ul>

### Mathematical Content Knowledge for Teaching<sup>a</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Adapted from

Deborah Loewenberg Ball, Mark Hoover Thames, Geoffrey Phelps, Content Knowl-edge for Teaching, Journal of Teacher Education 59 (2008) 389-407.

Fennema, E. & Franke, M. (1992). Teachers' knowledge and its impact in: D.A. Grouws (Ed) Handbook of Research on Mathematics Teaching and Learning (New York: Macmillan

Publishing).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Shulman, L.S. (1995). Those who understand: knowledge growth in teaching in: B. Moon &

A.S. Mayes (Eds) Teaching and Learning in the Secondary School (London: Routledge).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Wilson, M. R., Bertenthal, M. W., & ebrary, I. (2005). *Systems for state science assessment*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.





Elicit and Identify Preconceptions	Engage and Motivate Students
Activate Thinking and Promote Metacognition	Provide Stimuli for Scientific or Mathematical Discussions
Initiate Scientific Inquiry or Mathematical Ideas Exploration	Support Formal Concept Development and Transfer
Improve Questioning and Quality of Student Responses	Provide Teacher to Student Feedback
Support Peer and Self-Assessment	Encourage Reflection

#### **10 PURPOSES FOR EMBEDDING FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT INTO INSTRUCTION**

**30** UNCOVERING STUDENT THINKING ABOUT MATHEMATICS IN THE COMMON CORE, GRADES K-2







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#### **Number Lines**



7

For each number line, decide which point reresents the location of the fraction.



# 3.6

**Decimal Division Estimates** 

Without calculating, use mental math and/or estimation to determine the estimate for each division problem.

Circle one:	Explain your choice:
<sup>1.</sup> <b>5.4 ÷ 0.6</b>	
The quotient is	
a. between 0.5 and 1	
b. between 5 and 10	
c. between 50 and 100	
2.	
19.6 ÷ 0.05	
The quotient is	
a. between 3 and 4	
b. between 30 and 40	
c. between 300 and 400	

## Systems of Linear Equations

Look at the sets of systems of linear equations.



Circle the set with a solution that differs from the others.	Justify your choice.
1.	
a. $y = 3x - 4$	
2y-6x=-8	
b. $y = \frac{1}{2}x + 3$	
4y - 2x = 10	
c. $y = -2x + 8$	
3y + 6x = 24	
2.	
a. $y = 3x - 4$	
2y-6x=5	
b. $y = \frac{3}{4}x - 2$	
3y + 4x = 1	
c. $y = -\frac{5}{2}x + 3$	
5y - 2x = 8	
3.	
a. $y = 6x - 4$	
y = 4x + 6	
b. $y = \frac{1}{2}x + 3$	
$y = \frac{1}{2}x + 4$	
c. $y = 2x + 5$	
y = -3x + 1	

#### Analysis of Diagnostic Probe:

- What conceptual and procedural understandings does the Probe target?
- What conceptual and procedural misconceptions/difficulties does the Probe target?
- What is the purpose of each item in the Probe?

Item	Purpose of Each Answer Choice?		

What combination of items would be important to review when looking at student responses? Why?

• What would you do instructionally for students who have one or more of the misunderstandings elicited by this Probe?

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## Formative Assessment – Centered Classroom and the 20 Purposes for Using FACTS

Assessment strategies are purposefully used and these purposes are shared				
with students				
Learning goals and indicators of success are regularly used by students Students communicate their	<ul> <li>Challenge students' existing ideas and encourage intellectual curiosity</li> <li>Provide a stimulus for discussion and mathematical argumentation</li> <li>Encourage social construction of ideas in mathematics</li> <li>Activate thinking and engage students in learning</li> <li>Make students' ideas explicit to themselves and the teacher</li> </ul>			
understanding in relationship to the goal	<ul> <li>Help students inclus explicit to themselves and the teacher</li> <li>Help students consider alternative viewpoints</li> <li>Provide a stimulus for discussion and mathematical argumentation</li> <li>Encourage social construction of ideas in mathematics</li> <li>Encourage and include participation of all learners</li> <li>Increase comfort and confidence in making one's own ideas public</li> </ul>			
Teachers and students together monitor progress towards meeting the indicators of success	<ul> <li>Encourage continuous reflection on teaching and learning</li> <li>Encourage students to ask better questions and provide thoughtful responses</li> <li>Provide starting points for mathematical inquiry</li> <li>Aid formal concept development and transfer</li> <li>Determine whether students can apply mathematics ideas to new situations</li> <li>Promote the use of academic language in mathematics learning</li> <li>Help students develop self-assessment and peer assessment skills</li> <li>Encourage social construction of ideas in mathematics</li> <li>Inform immediate or later adjustments to instruction</li> <li>Encourage and include participation of all learners</li> </ul>			
Teachers and students provide feedback with the intent of moving learning forward	<ul> <li>Help students consider alternative viewpoints</li> <li>Provide a stimulus for discussion and mathematical argumentation</li> <li>Evaluate the effectiveness of a lesson</li> <li>Give and use feedback (student to student, teacher to student, and student to teacher)</li> </ul>			
Students regularly use teacher and peer feedback to move learning forward	<ul> <li>Provide a stimulus for discussion and mathematical argumentation</li> <li>Provide a stimulus for discussion and mathematical argumentation</li> <li>Differentiate instruction for individuals or groups of students</li> <li>Give and use feedback (student to student, teacher to student, and student to teacher)</li> </ul>			

## Next Steps Action Plan: Formative Assessment

What am I going to try?	What do I need to do to prepare for this?	What additional support might I need in order to do this?	What is my goal timeline?



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