Student-Centered Assessment

The Student-Centered Assessment project is focused on strengthening professional learning in order to improve the use of assessment results for increasing student achievement.

Background
During the 2015 legislative session, Oregon Department of Education (ODE) was provided funding to carry out the work of Student-Centered Assessment project. ODE convened a steering committee to develop and implement the project. The steering committee is comprised of participants from a school district, an education service district, the Confederation of School Administrators, the Oregon Education Association, and the Chief Education Office.

Goals
- Establish a community of practice that leverages available expertise and partnerships to coordinate, extend, and sustain professional learning around integrating assessment in teaching and learning.
  - Build professional learning capacity and assessment expertise within ODE and across partner agencies.

- Demonstrate how formative assessment and performance assessments can be used to:
  - Provide high quality feedback to students; and
  - Cultivate shared ownership between student and teacher for the student’s education.

Strategies
In order to reach these project goals, two primary strategies include developing a professional learning toolkit and establishing demonstration sites.

1. Professional Learning Toolkit
Website with assessment-related professional learning content. The toolkit goals include:
   a. coordinate creative-common licensed and other non-proprietary resources related to assessment into one location,
   b. modularize resources so that a school or district can determine the scope of its engagement, and
   c. deliver resources electronically in printable formats to allow for flexibility in implementation.
2. Demonstration Sites
Demonstration sites will provide an opportunity for a small number of schools to focus on assessment professional development initiatives that are of high interest in Oregon. Through both types of demonstration sites, the focus will be on developing a better understanding of the professional learning experiences that contribute to a teacher’s ability to integrate assessment with instruction, to provide high-quality feedback to students, and to cultivate shared ownership between student and teacher for the student’s education.

Performance Assessment Demonstration Sites
Performance assessments are open-ended, multi-step tasks that include opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills along with clear criteria for what success looks like. At these sites, school leaders and educators will build their knowledge of performance assessment. Content or grade-level teams of educators will commit to administering at least two performance assessments from the Performance Assessment Resource Bank. This process includes preparing students for performance assessments, implementing and scoring them, and providing feedback to students.

Formative Assessment Demonstration Site
Formative assessment practices help teachers better understand each student’s needs, enabling tailored instruction aligned to learning progressions and higher level thinking skills. In addition, formative assessment empowers students to self-reflect and adjust their learning strategies based on clear feedback aligned to learning expectations. At these sites, school leaders and educators will build their knowledge of formative assessment. Content or grade-level teams will pilot an Oregon version of the Formative Assessment Insights course in preparation for statewide release of a next version of the course in 2017-18.

The Formative Assessment Insights Course currently includes five modules that span five months:
   i. Introduction to formative assessment,
   ii. Planning lesson learning goals and success criteria from standards,
   iii. Intentionally eliciting and interpreting evidence of learning,
   iv. Pedagogical action in response to evidence, including feedback,
   v. Student involvement through peer and self-assessment.

Want to stay up-to-date?
- A project webpage is available at: http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/SCA
- Information about this project will be communicated through the Assessment and Accountability Update.