

Overview of FA Modules in NC FALCON

There are five formative assessment modules in the online professional development series located in NC FALCON. The following is a description of each formative assessment module.

- **Importance of Formative Assessment.** This module provides an introduction to formative assessment, its importance and role in North Carolina’s 21st Century Balanced Assessment System. At the end of the module, participants will be able to:
 - Explain the purpose of formative assessment and why it is defined as a process;
 - Distinguish between formative assessment and benchmark/summative assessment;
 - Articulate how formative assessment is used in their classroom/school and how they plan to use formative assessment in the future.

- **Learning Targets and Criteria for Success.** This module focuses on how teachers can write clear learning targets and define criteria for success in order to help students answer the question, “Where am I going?” At the end of the module, participants will be able to:
 - Recognize clear and unclear learning targets;
 - Develop clear learning targets and their associated criteria for success to use in a lesson or series of lessons.

- **Collecting and Documenting Evidence.** This module explores how teachers can collect and document evidence of learning to help students answer the question “Where am I now?” At the end of the module, participants will be able to:
 - Identify at least three ways to collect and document evidence of student learning;
 - Choose strategies for collecting and documenting evidence of student learning that provide accurate information about where students are in their learning and align the strategies with the targets and criteria for success.

- **Analyzing Data and Descriptive Feedback.** This module provides teachers with an understanding of how to analyze evidence of learning and how to use descriptive feedback to reflect student strengths and weaknesses with respect to specific learning goals and success criteria to help students answer the questions, “Where am I now?” and “How can I close the gap?” At the end of the module, participants will be able to:
 - Effectively examine student work;
 - Understand the differences between evaluative and descriptive feedback;
 - Enhance student learning through descriptive feedback;
 - Plan instructional modifications to address learning gaps or enrich instruction.

- **Administrator’s Role in Formative Assessment.** This module looks at the role of the administrator in formative assessment. At the end of the module, participants will be able to:
 - Describe formative assessment and how an administrator can use it in his or her school;
 - Discuss elements of formative assessment;
 - Determine the extent to which a school implements formative assessment;
 - Monitor and build capacity for implementation of formative assessment in schools.