

Michigan Assessment Consortium

March 6, 2009
Michigan Association of
Administrators of Special Education



Overview

- “Morphed” from OEAA Balanced Assessment Leadership Group
- Several ISDs/RESAs proposed working together to create products and services to meet common needs
 - Assessments
 - Professional development opportunities
- The group proposed to create the Michigan Assessment Consortium (MAC) to meet these needs

2

Rationale for the MAC

- Local districts often do not have the resources to carry out these activities by themselves
- If they try to develop their own, the quality of the assessment materials and resources may be low
- Duplicative work is wasteful of staff and financial resources
- Working collaboratively could increase quality while reducing costs
- Newer models of assessment can be more readily implemented by working together

3

MAC Retreat



- September 5-7, 2008
- Barothy Lodge in Wahalla
- 11 volunteer participants
 - ISD/RESA
 - Professional Organization
 - MDE
 - MSU
- Nancy Fahner, Ingham ISD

4

Work with Facilitator, Nancy Fahner



5

Partnerships



6

Facilicookatating!



7

Making the most of two days...



8

Michigan Assessment Consortium

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

- Promoting assessment knowledge and practice
- Providing professional development
- Producing and sharing assessment tools and products.

9

MAC Vision

We believe...

- Collaboratives and consortia advance work.
- Balanced Assessment is a valued enterprise
- Students are the most important users of classroom assessment data.
- Teachers & administrators must engage students in the assessment process.

10

MAC Vision

We believe...

- All educators can learn to implement a balanced assessment system.
- Teachers and principals and central office must be assessment literate.
- Development and use of a coherent system (CIA) ensures quality for each student.
- An effective assessment system includes a balance of school, district and state measures and uses a variety of methods.

11

Organizing Partners

Initial organizing partners have included:

- ISDs and RESAs
- Michigan Department of Education (OSI & OEAA)
- MSU Center for Assessment Research and Development, plus other universities
- Statewide professional associations (e.g. MASCD, MSTA, etc.)
- Other groups & individuals interested in improved curriculum, instruction and assessments

12

Current & Future Projects

Assessment Development

- ➔ Social Studies Assessments – collaborative with MC3 to develop unit-level assessments beginning with World History
- CTE Technical Skills Assessments – Expand the assessment opportunities through inter-state collaboration
- Art – several districts may collaborate with the MAC and MDE to develop assessment prototypes in one or more arts disciplines.

13

Current & Future Projects

Professional Development

- ➔ Formative Assessment Coaches - Formative assessment in the classroom, showing teachers how they can incorporate assessment strategies that will help them improve student learning. Model of training coach/facilitators with learning teams in a formative culture.

14

Current & Future Projects

Professional Development – continued

Statewide video conferences

- March 7, 2007: Rick Stiggins discussed a balanced assessment system for student success
- October 8, 2008: Rick Stiggins outlined 7 specific steps in helping all students learn
- January 28, 2009: Carol Commodore addressed the link between student motivation & assessment practices
- April 23, 2009: Margaret Heritage will present on the importance of learning progressions in the formative assessment process

<http://www.mistreamnet.com> Click on Video On Demand and search by "assessment"
These programs are archived and are also available for purchase on DVD \$10 + \$4 shipping. Contact Brenda Hose hoseb@resa.net

15

Current & Future Projects

Professional Development – continued

- **Training to build and use common assessments**
This would be a statewide training delivered via video conference, broken into 3 parts:
 - Overview of quality assessments & using common assessments
 - Developing assessments
 - Implementing/monitoring/refining

Coaches would be trained across the state, assessments as developed and implemented would be evaluated and refined.

16

What we are learning from our projects...

"Formative assessment is a planned process in which assessment-elicited evidence of students' status is used by teachers to adjust their ongoing instructional procedures or by students to adjust their current learning tactics."

- W. James Popham, 2008

Other research sources:
Stiggins, Black & William, Sadler, Sheppard

17

What we are learning from our projects...

- It's Not Formative Unless..
 - Teachers have a **plan** before they walk into the classroom.
 - The Learning Targets are **clear** and **linked** to every part of the Formative Assessment Process.
 - Feedback for Learning is **actionable**.
 - Teachers **analyze** student assessment evidence as a way to **revise their instruction**.
- Coaches are key. Coaches and their Learning Teams to focus on monthly themes.

18

Intentions & Guiding Structure

- Want to be inclusive vs. exclusive
- Want to capitalize on and share good work currently being done
- Want to connect with folks who currently provide assessment services and products
- Want a statewide effort
- Want the work of the consortium informed by its membership

19

Current Structure

- We have an initial board of directors
- We have two working committees (Professional Development and Assessment Development)
- We are developing partnerships to start up projects and professional development
- We have an E-Newsletter & a Web site (under construction)

20

MAC Board Members

- Kathy Dewsbury-White, president, Ingham ISD
- Ed Roeber, secretary, MSU
- Kim Young, treasurer, Ionia County ISD
- Judy Backes, board member Macomb ISD
- Robby Cramer, board member MSTA
- Bruce Fay, board member, Wayne RESA
- Karen Mlcek, board member, Wexford-Missaukee ISD
- Joseph Martineau, board member, MDE-OEAA
- Olga Moir, board member, MASCD
- Dodie Raycraft, board member, St. Joseph County ISD
- Rochelle Rubin, board member, MSTA
- Betty Underwood, board member, MDE OSI
- Michael Yocum, board member, Oakland ISD

21

How to get involved in the MAC

- Email Kim Young to receive the e-newsletter
- Contact committee chairs to join one of the two working committees:
 - Assessment Development – roeber@msu.edu
 - Professional Development – youngk1@michigan.gov
- Speak to any MAC Board member about existing or future projects

22

For more information

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23