



MEMORANDUM



To: Interested Educators

From: Kathy Dewsbury-White

Date: May 11, 2021

Subject: **MAC Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment Field Test Opportunity**

Be among a select number of sites from across the state selected for the Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment (formerly Smarter FAME) field test! Educators interested in more effectively using school and classroom student assessment might be interested in a unique opportunity to engage in an extended study of how balanced classroom assessment (assessment *for* and *of* learning) can be used to substantially improve student learning.

This Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment Field Test includes an opportunity for educators to learn about and learn to use the formative assessment process during instruction, the development/selection and use of quality assessment evidence-gathering tools, both summative and formative within the classroom setting, the monitoring and verification of student learning through the periodic use of interim assessments and, ultimately, deepening participant understanding of how assessment *for* learning (the formative assessment process) and assessment *of* learning (summative assessments) can be used together to enhance student learning and achievement and effectively improve assessment balance at the classroom level. In all instances, the quality of the data being collected and used, as well its alignment to the instructional outcomes and content standards, will be important considerations.

Participating site teams can anticipate the following learner outcomes:

1. An increased understanding of the critical components of a balanced classroom assessment system, with a focus on the formative assessment process;
2. The use of this understanding to develop action plans to successfully implement a balanced assessment system in their building and classrooms to help support continuous improvement efforts.

School sites will engage in learning about assessment in several fundamental areas, using newly created resources called learning maps. We have developed three learning maps for this project. They are:

- A. [Creating Balance in Classroom Assessment Systems: The Foundations;](#)
- B. [Bringing Balance to Classroom Assessment Systems with the Formative Assessment Process;](#)

C. [Exploring the Ecosystem of the Smarter Balanced System of Assessment and Tools for Teachers](#)

The learning maps have links to relevant learning resources and facilitation strategies field test site participants can use as they actively engage in collaborative learning. For more information on these resources, click the links above.

If you are want to learn more about this field test opportunity, please do one or more of the following:

- Review the Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment Field Test Overview (Attachment A)
- Review the MAC Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment Field Test Frequently Asked Questions (Attachment B). Please feel free to share any of these resources with district leadership and/or potential team members identified for participation. The documents and informational webinar are archived for use on the MAC Field Test Event page : <https://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/event/abca/>

If you are interested in participating in the field test, please complete the MAC Smarter FAME Field Test Application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABCAfieldtest> by August 20, 2021.

The MAC hopes to confirm selected sites in time for districts to include their intentions in their 2021-2022 district Comprehensive Improvement Plan (CIP). Please refer to the FAQ (Attachment B) for suggested language to include in your plan.

Questions about this field test, may be directed to Kathy Dewsbury-White at (517) 816-4520 or e-mail Kathy at kdwhite@michiganassessmentconsortium.org, or to Ed Roeber at (517) 614-4877 or e-mail Ed at roeber@msu.edu.

