***Making Michigan the* *State of Assessment Literacy***

Michigan Assessment Consortium

September 2019

For a number of years, the Michigan Assessment Consortium has been working to improve the understanding and use of assessment in the state of Michigan, for students and their families, elementary and secondary teachers, building and district administrators, and local and state policymakers. The MAC has engaged in several inter-related activities.

**Assessment Literacy Standards** – This document describes the assessment knowledge, assessment practices (performances), and dispositions that assessment literate students and their families, elementary and secondary teachers, building and district administrators, and local and state policymakers possess. This document undergirds all of the MAC’s assessment learning activities. The complete resource can be found on the MAC website: <https://tinyurl.com/ydbja6oe>

**Assessment Learning Network (ALN)** – Thisis a professional learning community of members from Michigan’s professional education organizations. The goal of the ALN is to increase the assessment literacy of all of Michigan’s professional educators, through engagement and shared perspectives. This learning community invests in Michigan’s children and educators by using assessment to culti­vate capable learners. The ALN is a unique concept that:

* Brings together the leadership from Michigan’s professional education associations.
* Offers regular engagements where diverse education leaders learn together about the power of assessment to support the development of our students, their educators, and the state.
* Has the goal for member organizations to work with the MAC to promote assessment learning of their members.
* Is supported by the MAC and the Michigan Department of Education.

The ALN has met four times per school year since 2016-17. A national expert addresses the group at each meeting, providing an overview on an assigned topic and then engages in Q & A with ALN attendees.

The MAC has also created a number of resources for use by ALN members. These include:

* Full-length video presentations made by the national experts who have addressed the ALN on a variety of assessment topics during the past three years;
* *Learning Moments*, which are short video clips of questions of and answers from the national experts;
* *Learning Points*, which are two-page summaries designed to answer a number of fundamental assessment questions in accessible, non-technical language.
* *Think Points*, which are longer treatments of assessment ideas that might change and improve state or local assessment systems.
* Additional resources suggested by the national experts

These can be accessed at <https://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/aln/>

**Michigan Learns Assessment (MLA)** – The MAC’s *Assessment Literacy Standards* indicate the knowledge, performances, and dispositions that assessment literate students, educators, and policymakers possess. These standards are guiding a long-term assessment learning activity in which some educators seek an introductory assessment understanding; others seek to learn more, and some may wish to become certified as an “assessment specialist.”

The MAC has undertaken steps to implement such an assessment credentialing system for Michigan

school administrators and classroom teachers. The envisioned Michigan Learns Assessment (MLA) system offers learning opportunities at three levels:

* + Introductory (Level 1) – [Nine online, self-paced learning modules](https://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/almodules/) that provide fundamental assessment knowledge are available, each resulting in continuing education credits.
  + Intermediate (Level 2) – A variety of assessment topics are covered in numerous short courses requiring demonstration of proficiency, each resulting in award of micro-credentials for course completion. The courses focus on discrete assessment topics. Courses are organized by Strands, and learners are asked to submit evidence resulting from assigned tasks. Tasks are constructed to permit learners to apply knowledge and skills, and tasks represent the competencies and responsibilities educators encounter in their current context. Assessment expert reviewers evaluate the evidence, provide feedback, and render reliable judgment about learner performance. When proficiency is met, credit is awarded. Learners work at their own pace – following the course suggested calendar for submission of evidence. We estimate learners will invest 15 – 20 hours to complete, submit, revise, and resubmit evidence to demonstrate proficiency per course.
  + Advanced (Level 3) – Given a defined school/district assessment problem of practice, the learner is to demonstrate leadership ability in collaborative work with classroom teachers or with panels of educators and others working to create balanced approaches to assessment at the district or school levels. Results in certification, either as a classroom specialist or as a district/school assessment systems specialist.

The goal of the MAC is to have a classroom assessment specialist in every school (N = 4,000) and a

district/school assessment systems specialist in every district (N = 875).

**Assessment Learning Institute** – To provide the expertise to mentor and lead the work of candidates for Level 2 or 3 MLA certification, the MAC conducts an annual Assessment Learning Institute (ALI). The goal of the ALI is to provide attendees with an in-depth overview of the tools and resources available for ALI participants to use when they work with teachers on assessment for learning activities at the classroom level, or when they work with teams of educators and others who are designing district or school assessment of learning systems that address the 3C’s of a balanced assessment system (i.e., are comprehensive, coherent, and continuous), and that balance the assessments used annually by the state.

**For More Information** – For more information on how the MAC is working to help Michigan become the state of assessment literacy (and how these resources might help promote such learning in your state or school district), please contact:

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Visit the MAC website to see the array of assessment information that has been selected for use in promoting learning about assessment: <https://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/>