



Ellen Vorenkamp, Ed.D., Professional Learning Director for the MAC, Retired Assessment Consultant, Wayne RESA; MAC Board Member; FAME Lead; Owner/Consultant of MKJ Educational Consulting

Education: Specialist and Doctorate degrees in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University.

Biography: Ellen has contributed to the development of professional learning opportunities for the MAC as well as related course materials, including facilitation guides, learning maps, and other instructional resources. She has served as coordinator for MAC's Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment (ABCA) program, as faculty for the Assessment Learning Institute, and as leader for the MAC Reads statewide book studies. Ellen is a frequent presenter at various statewide and national conferences on assessment, and she has contributed to the Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) and served as a Lead Coach for 16 years. For more than 20 years, Ellen has focused her consulting services on balanced assessment systems, assessment literacy, quality classroom summative assessment, the formative assessment process, grading and reporting to support student learning, assessment within a PLC, and facilitation with district assessment inventories. Her 30+-year career started with teaching middle school English language arts and social studies. She has been an assistant principal, curriculum director, and a project director for the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Charter School Office. She has also served as adjunct professor at EMU and presently with Concordia University.

A Bit of Assessment Advice: *"Some of us learn fast, and some struggle. Kids recognize it. We must make sure they all learn. When we were learning how to walk and talk from our parents, we never got graded, but we got lots of constant feedback. Not everything is about these artificial deadlines. We always give people second chances: We get chance after chance, and then we get to get up and start all over. The real test is, what do you remember a week later? Every kid needs to keep moving just a little bit further in their learning journey. All of them are going to be just a little bit better, one step ahead. How do you really know what a learner knows? There is room for grace."*