

# Top 10

## Reasons to Participate in Formative Assessment Professional Development

### **10. You can work according to your schedule.**

Have a prep period at 9:15am? Thirty minutes after school? That'll work! All you need is a computer and a slice of time. When the bell rings or you're called away, the system will bookmark your work and save it until you're ready to return to it.

### **9. You can work at your pace.**

Maybe you've attended a workshop on formative assessment. Perhaps you read about it during your teacher prep program. Or maybe you never heard the term before this year. Because the course is online, you can move through it at your own pace, according to your learning needs.

### **8. You can do it your pajamas.**

This professional development will not take you out of building, so you don't have to worry about sub plans or driving across the state. You can log on in your classroom, computer lab, library, or living room.

### **7. It features RI educators.**

Rhode Island teachers participated in a pilot of the Linking Learning & Assessment course. They gave us feedback on the materials and graciously allowed us to film them as they learned and practiced the formative assessment process.

### **6. We'll be speaking the same language.**

We're a little state, yet we often do not share a common definition of educational terminology! One of the goals of this project is to establish a common definition of formative assessment and a common vision of what best practice looks like across the state.

## **5. It can be your Professional Growth Goal**

If your evaluator approves, you can write your Professional Growth Goal around deepening your understanding and use of the formative assessment process. The resources will be provided entirely by the course and there is a sample on the RIDE formative assessment webpage: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment/Formative.aspx>

## **4. You can see what formative assessment looks like.**

The modules include videos of teachers implementing formative assessment in classrooms around the world, in a variety of content areas and grade levels. You'll see how they collect formative data, how they use it to adjust instruction, and how this way of assessing has improved their practice and student achievement.

## **3. There is time built in for talking to colleagues**

The online modules are structured to be completed every other month. In off months, you can sit down with your colleagues and talk about what you're learning. You can ask questions, share your ideas and struggles, and hear their thoughts.

## **2. The data is for you and your students.**

Formative data is not used for accountability. It's for you and your students to use in the classroom to gauge how they are doing and decide what to do next.

## **1. It works!**

There is a robust research base that supports the use of formative assessment process across grade levels and content areas. Using the formative assessment process has been shown to greatly improve student achievement, particularly among struggling learners.