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# **Creating the Conditions for Formative Assessment:**

## **An Administrator's Journey**

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# Creating the Conditions for Formative Assessment

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- Foster a Safe Learning Environment
- Cultivate a Professional Learning Community
- Define Best Practices in Curricular Areas
- Establish Systems of Accountability

# ➤ Foster a Safe Learning Environment

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Elements of a Learning Environment:

- Social Emotional
- Academic
- Physical



# ➤ Foster a Safe Learning Environment

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## Elements of the Learning Environment:

- **Social Emotional**

A child needs to feel safe to take risks, make mistakes, ask questions, share ideas, thoughts, and concerns.

Learning is a social experience—children learn from one another.

A safe, social emotional environment values children's voices, their concerns, and develops their skills to problem solve

A safe, social emotional learning environment provides opportunities for student discourse as daily practice.

A safe environment is part of the school's culture



# ➤ Foster a Community of Learners

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## Elements of the Learning Environment:

### Academic

- Academic Expectations clearly articulated
- First-hand experiences visible
- Academic Resources readily available for teachers, students
- Parent Involvement



# ➤ Foster a Community of Learners

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## Elements of the Learning Environment:

### Physical

- Child centered, collaborative furniture set up
- Student work visible with feedback opportunities
- Communal and individual work visible
- Changes as student learning progresses
- Reflects process & product
- Flexible, movable, interactive
- Valued by all



# ➤ Cultivate a Professional Learning Community

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- Create Committee Structures to develop Shared Leadership
- Structure regular times for teachers to collaborate
  - Specialist Times:
    - Physical Education
    - Elective
  - Banked Time
    - Lengthen the regular day
    - Structure After-school Weekly Meeting
  - Pupil Free Days (Before, during, after school year)



# ➤ Cultivate a Professional Learning Community

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- A school-wide focus
- Supports
  - Focused Professional Development
  - Lesson and Unit Planning w/Master Teacher
  - Coaching by Master Teacher
  - Demo & Debriefing Lessons with Master Teacher
  - Resources for teacher support, Professional Book Clubs, etc.
- Peer Observations/Walk-throughs





# ➤ Cultivate a Professional Learning Community

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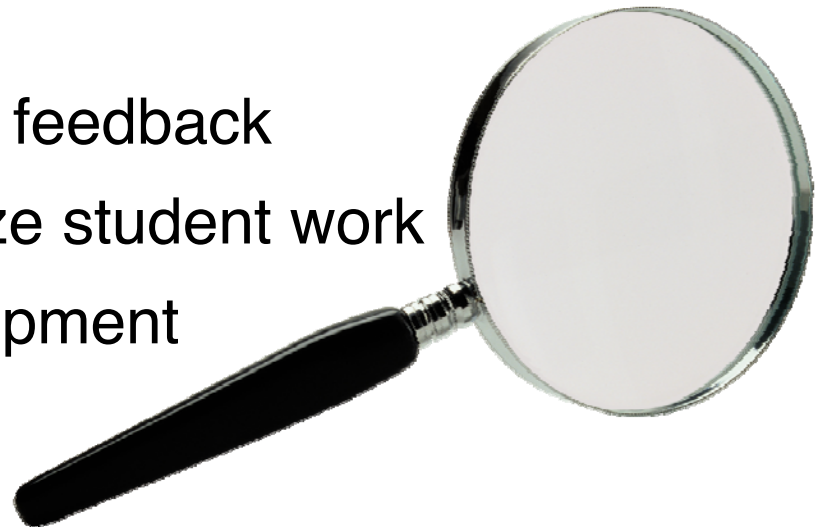
Set an Agenda for Analysis of Student Work

Teachers to provide evidence of student learning

- Select student work to examine
- Collect evidence of learning
- Increase interpretive skills

Administrative Support

- Provide on-going supportive feedback
- Meet with teachers to analyze student work
- Provide Professional Development



# ➤ Cultivate a Professional Learning Community

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## Skill Development Needed for Collaboration

- Adaptive Schools Professional Development
  - Norms of Collaboration
  - Agreements within functioning teams, levels, committees



# ➤ Cultivate a Professional Learning Community

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A Unified Voice, Unified Purpose



# ➤ Define Best Practices

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Create curriculum committee structures with teachers who work to:

- Collaborate with administration
- articulate Best Practices
- ensure grade level representation
- demonstrate interest in curricular area
- articulate accountability
- document through video & photo journal
- coordinate visitation/observation days
- create protocols for observation/peer feedback
- collaborate to inform parents through workshops

# Establish Systems of Accountability

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- Work with teachers to determine “best” systems to collect formative assessment data in the different curricular areas
- Establish periods of collaboration
- Establish opportunities for teacher feedback
- Review collected data as a class, level, school-wide
- Evaluate student progress as a class. Compare trends with school-wide standards testing
- Modify instruction as needed school-wide

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