Creating the Conditions for Formative Assessment:
An Administrator’s Journey

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Creating the Conditions for Formative Assessment

- 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

Elements of a Learning Environment:

• Social Emotional
• Academic
• Physical
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

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

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

- 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

• 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

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
Skill Development Needed for Collaboration

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

Cultivate a Professional Learning Community
Cultivate a Professional Learning Community

A Unified Voice, Unified Purpose
Define Best Practices

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

- 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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