

FORMATIVE INSTRUCTION ONLINE COURSES

A suite of formative instruction online courses is available at no cost to Tennessee K–12 public schools as part of First to the Top.

Can you effectively identify gaps in student learning on a daily basis?
 Are you getting feedback and involvement from your students during instruction?
 Are you providing substantive feedback to students?

When teachers practice high-quality assessment for learning, student progress accelerates. In fact, few education interventions have come close to having the same impact as assessment for learning through high-quality formative instructional practices.

The Tennessee Department of Education is pleased to provide access to a new series of online courses available to help teachers maximize their knowledge of balanced assessment systems, including formative instructional practices. The courses explore the framework of formative instruction, expanding on the work of leading assessment experts, including Richard Stiggins, Judith Arter, Jan Chappuis, and Stephen Chappuis around the Five Keys to Quality Assessment and the Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning. Enroll in individual courses or in the formative instruction learning path, which offers a suggested course of study to guide learning.



Formative Instruction Online Courses

- **AL0000** Introduction to Formative Instruction Courses
- **AL0001** Professional Learning Teams: Collaborating to Make It Happen
- **AL0002** Overview of Assessment for Learning
- **AL0003** An Introduction to the Five Keys of Quality Assessment with a Focus on Clear Purpose
- **AL0004** Clear Learning Targets
- **AL0005** Sound Assessment Design
- **AL0006** Communication for Learning
- **AL0007** Student Ownership: The Critical Piece
- **AL0008** Actionable Strategies: Putting It All Together

Access and Enrollment Instructions

- Visit the Tennessee Student Progress Portal at www.BattelleforKids.org/Tennessee.
- Log in and click on “My Learn.” Then, click on “Begin” next to the formative instruction online course you wish to take.

Formative Instruction Online Courses for Tennessee K–12 Public School Employees

Developed by Battelle for Kids and grounded in leading experts’ assessment for learning principles, the formative instruction online courses will provide Tennessee educators with the necessary information and resources to use high-quality, daily formative instructional practices that lead to increased student achievement. This learning path involves completing the online formative instruction courses below as well as opportunities for optional extended learning to deepen understanding.

Course Code and Name	Description	Estimated Hours for Completion	Instructional Notes
AL0000: Introduction to Formative Instruction Courses	Provides suggestions for how to get the most meaningful learning experience out of the eight courses.	N/A	The introduction is recommended before taking all eight courses.
AL0001: Professional Learning Teams: Collaborating to Make It Happen	Provides insights into Professional Learning Communities as a proven method of reducing teacher autonomy and isolation and improving the art of teaching.	(2) one-hour units	If you are already part of a functioning learning team, you may want to omit this course.
AL0002: Overview of Assessment for Learning	Become familiar with the basic concepts behind assessment for learning. Look deeper into how the process of sound formative instructional practices motivates students.	(4) one-hour units	This may serve as a stand-alone course, simply to gain an understanding of the assessment for learning process.
AL0003: An Introduction to the Five Keys of Quality Classroom Assessment with a Focus on Clear Purpose	Learn about the Five Keys to Quality Classroom Assessment (Stiggins, Arter, Chappuis, & Chappuis, 2006) and how they build upon each other to provide accurate formative instructional information that benefits students.	(3) one-hour units	This course should be taken in sequence with all eight courses.
AL0004: Clear Learning Targets	Explore the reasons why having a clear vision of the learning targets for students in student-friendly language is important to implement sound formative instructional practices in your classroom and school.	(4) one-hour units	This course should be taken in sequence with all eight courses.
AL0005: Sound Assessment Design	Learn how to match the best assessment design to the learning targets to get accurate results.	(3) one-hour units	This course should be taken in sequence with all eight courses.
AL0006: Communication for Learning	Become familiar with the power of effective feedback. Understand the difference between descriptive and evaluative feedback. Learn strategies for effectively communicating for learning.	(3) one-hour units	This course should be taken in sequence with all eight courses.
AL0007: Student Ownership: The Critical Piece	Become familiar with the basic rationale and strategies for helping students gain ownership of their learning. Explore how to implement these strategies with your students.	(3) one-hour units	This course should be taken in sequence with all eight courses.
AL0008: Actionable Strategies: Putting It All Together	Explore all strategies embedded in the Five Keys to Quality Classroom Assessment practices. Learn what teachers are doing in the field.	(4) one-hour units and culminating project	An understanding of the Five Keys is necessary to fully comprehend this course.