



Introducing and Leveraging Formative Instruction Online Courses In Your District

Goals of this Presentation

- Become familiar with the formative instruction online courses and the learning path available to Tennessee K–12 public schools at no cost as part of First to the Top
- Understand the features of the courses
- Learn strategies to leverage course content with staff members
- Explore the benefits of the BFK•Learn™ solution's learning management features for administrators and staff members

About the Formative Instruction Courses

- Courses provide Tennessee educators with the necessary information and resources to use high-quality, daily formative instructional practices that lead to increased student academic progress
- Course are grounded in leading experts' assessment *for* learning principles
- The learning path involves completing the online courses as well as opportunities for optional extended learning to deepen understanding


What are Formative Instructional Practices?

- ❑ Formal and informal processes that teachers and students use to know where they are in the intended learning, where they need to go and how to close the gap
- ❑ Purpose is to collect evidence to *inform* learning—for the teacher and student
- ❑ Most powerful when students know what they know and can do, and teachers adjust instruction to keep all students on winning streaks
- ❑ Often defined as formative assessment or assessment *for* learning

Formative Instruction Online Courses

Eight Comprehensive Online Courses

- Introduction to Formative Instruction Courses
- Professional Learning Teams: Collaborating to Make it Happen
- Overview of Assessment *for* Learning
- An Introduction to the Five Keys of Quality Classroom Assessment with a Focus on Clear Purpose



TENNESSEE FIRST TO THE TOP

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. Focused around the Five Keys of Quality Assessment and the Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning, content is based on research by leading assessment experts. 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

- A0000 Introduction to Formative Instruction Courses
- A0001 Professional Learning Teams: Collaborating to Make It Happen
- A0002 Overview of Assessment for Learning
- A0003 An Introduction to the Five Keys of Quality Assessment with a Focus on Clear Purpose
- A0004 Clear Learning Targets
- A0005 Sound Assessment Design
- A0006 Communication for Learning
- A0007 Student Ownership: The Critical Piece
- A0008 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.

Over to online course descriptions <

K-12 Public School Employees

For learning principles, the formative instruction and resources to use high-quality, daily formative learning path involves completing the online formative learning to deepen understanding.

Estimated Hours for Completion	Instructional Notes
N/A	The introduction is recommended before taking all eight courses.
(2) one-hour units	If you are already part of a functioning learning team, you may want to omit this course.
(4) one-hour units	This may serve as a stand-alone course, simply to gain an understanding of the assessment for learning process.
(3) one-hour units	This course should be taken in sequence with all eight courses.
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(3) one-hour units	This course should be taken in sequence with all eight courses.
(4) one-hour units and culminating project	An understanding of the Five Keys is necessary to fully comprehend this course.

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Formative Instruction Online Courses

Eight Comprehensive Online Courses

- ❑ Clear Learning Targets
- ❑ Sound Assessment Design
- ❑ Communication for Learning
- ❑ Student Ownership: The Critical Piece
- ❑ Actionable Strategies: Putting it All Together




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Eight Comprehensive Online Courses

- Learning Path
 - A learning journey connected by a common focus
 - Contains several courses
- Units
 - Each course contains 2–4 units
 - Each unit takes about 1 hour to complete
- Lessons
 - Each unit consists of several lessons
 - Length of each lesson varies

- The BFK•Learn™ solution empowers leaders to assign, monitor and manage staff's professional learning experience in a district or building, including:
 - Enrolling staff in activities
 - Implementing Professional Learning Communities
 - Setting target completion dates
 - Sending e-mail alerts

Formative Instruction Online Courses

Educator Benefits

By participating in these courses, educators will be able to:

- ❑ Implement various formative instructional methods for different learning targets and purposes
- ❑ Create learning targets in student-friendly language

Educator Benefits (Continued)

By participating in these courses, educators will be able to:

- Establish student ownership in the assessment process by engaging students in descriptive feedback and peer and self-reflection
- Understand the importance of collaborating with school learning teams to support educators' learning and implementation of formative instructional practices

Formative Instruction Online Courses

Course Features

- Designed to build on one another
- Any time, any place, any pace
- Work independently or with a team
- Graduate credit available
- Educator video commentary
- Virtual learning teams

Formative Instruction Online Courses

Course Features

- Course assessments and feedback
- Criteria for credit checklist
- Sample agendas for school learning teams
- Work stored in an easy-to-access, printable ePortfolio
- Scenario-based
- References and completion certificates

Features: Educator Video Commentary

- Scenarios provide real life and classroom experiences
- Short video clips are embedded from Battelle for Kids' experts and classroom practitioners

Features: Virtual Learning Teams

- Represent various educators
- Help answer frequently asked questions
- Establish a common thread throughout the paths
- Help participants process information by “thinking aloud”
- Professor Wise is the guide on the side

- Course assessments are formative:
 - Questions and reflections are strategically placed
 - Once answers are submitted, Professor Wise offers sample answers containing key points
 - Several courses begin with an implementation rubric so educators can place current practices on a continuum

Features: Criteria for Credit Checklist

- Each course lists all assessments, assignments and reflections required throughout the course

Features: Sample Agenda for Teams

- Sample agendas provide school learning team facilitators a guide for discussions based on work completed during course
- Each course contains a 45–minute agenda and a 90–minute agenda to meet variety of needs

Formative Instruction Online Courses Features: ePortfolio

- As participants complete reflections and questions, they are saved in an ePortfolio
- Can be printed and
 - Brought to school learning team meeting for discussion
 - Turned in to principal as evidence of learning
 - Kept as a guide for personal reference

Formative Instruction Online Courses

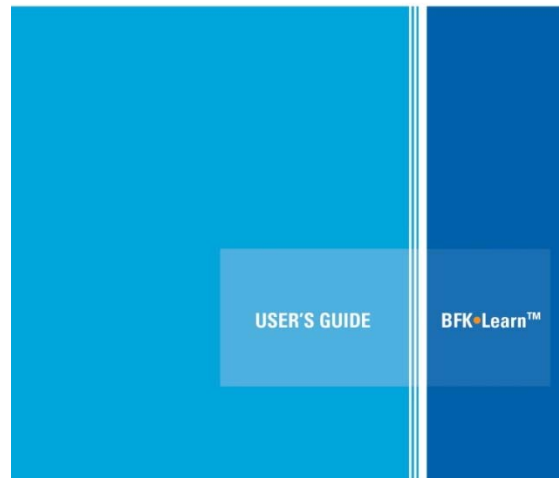
Features: References and Completion Certificates

- Course references provided to allow for additional study
- Certificates provided for each course completed



Formative Instruction Online Courses Access

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- Log in and click on “My Learn.” Then, click on “Begin” next to the formative instruction online course you wish to take
- Refer to the downloadable BFK•Learn™ User’s Guide for complete instructions and course features



Formative Instruction Online Courses

Why Team Approach?

“Research suggests that professional development is most effective when teachers engage actively in instructional inquiry in the context of collaborative professional communities, focused on instructional improvement and student achievement.”

—Darling-Hammond, L., Wei, R. C., Andree, A., Richardson, N., & Orphanos, S. (2009).

Professional learning in the learning profession: A status report on teacher development in the United States and abroad. National Staff Development Council.

Formative Instruction Online Courses

Testimonials

“As a result of this instruction, I will work on making my assessments more meaningful and make sure my students know and understand their targets for learning.”

*—Lexington (TN) Teacher and
Formative Instruction Participant*

Formative Instruction Online Courses

Testimonials

“Battelle for Kids’ formative assessment instruction is both concise and comprehensive, all in one place. The information balances theory and reality that can be directly applied in the classroom.”

—*Curriculum Director and
Formative Instruction Participant*



Battelle
for **Kids**
Bringing clarity to
school improvement

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