



## NATURAL SCIENCES\_ SENIOR PHASE\_ MWAZVITA CHIKOPO\_ 23-09-2022

**TO:** Teachers

**TOPIC:** Formative Assessment

### **MESSAGE OBJECTIVE(S):** *Why Formative Assessment?*

For an assessment to be considered formative, it must be used to plan instruction and to help learners reflect upon their thinking. An assessment is merely diagnostic if evidence is gathered but not used to inform the teacher and his or her learners during the learning process.

### **MESSAGE:**

Formative assessment is the practice of using a variety of tools and strategies as part of the instructional process to gather evidence about student thinking and learning from which to make informed decisions about each of these important educational issues:

- **Instruction** —what we teach, what we do, and how we do it.
- **Student learning**—where they need to go and how to help them get there.
- **Differentiating instruction**—build on student strengths and interests, correct their weaknesses, and provide for students who aren't learning.
- **Curricular enhancement, modification, and change**—concepts to address more thoroughly and experiences to build into the curriculum.
- **Raising standards of student achievement.**
- **Professional development needs related to;**
  - ✓ Content knowledge,
  - ✓ Pedagogy—teaching skills and effective practices,
  - ✓ Use of technology, resources, and equipment,
  - ✓ Learning communities,
  - ✓ Mentoring and coaching

Formative assessment is frequently described as an **assessment for learning** rather than **assessment of learning**. This is because the evidence gathered is used by teachers and learners to make decisions about next steps in the learning process.

### **Key strategies that are core to successful formative assessment practice in the classroom:**

1. Clarifying, sharing, and understanding learning intentions and criteria for success.
2. Engineering effective classroom discussions, activities, and learning tasks that elicit evidence of learning
3. Providing feedback that moves learning forward
4. Activating learners as instructional resources for one another.
5. Activating learners as owners of their own learning.

### **LINK TO THE NECT WEBSITE**

Please visit: [www.nect.org.za/materials](http://www.nect.org.za/materials)

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