

Team Time – Reflecting on the two articles you were asked to read

Rick Stiggins Article: Assessment Crisis: The Absence of Assessment FOR Learning

1. What is the intended purpose of assessment OF learning? What tools are typically used? What are some of the implied purposes of assessment OF learning? What are some of the unintended consequences?
2. What is the intended purpose of assessment FOR learning? What tools are typically used? What are some of the results of effectively using assessment FOR learning? What are barriers to reaching full use of formative assessment?
3. If assessment FOR learning is so powerful, why has the focus been on assessment OF learning?
4. What would you see happening in a classroom / school / district which uses the data from local, state, and national assessments OF learning effectively? Give specifics.
5. What would you see happening in a classroom / school / district which uses the data from local assessments FOR learning effectively? Give specifics.
6. What do you see as your building's needs in order to move to a balanced assessment culture as described in this article?

Black & William: Inside the Black Box : Raising Standards Through Classroom Assessment

1. What do Black & William mean by their “black box” analogy?
2. Based on what you read in this article, what are the key aspects of formative assessment?
3. If formative assessment is so powerful, why is it so underused?
4. What do the authors suggest as actions to improve formative assessment? What are the benefits of each of these actions? What would these look like in practice in your classroom or in your school?
5. At the end of the article, four specific implementation steps are listed. Describe what would be needed by your school's staff to fully implement each step.