

## NM PED and Cognia

# Assessment Literacy Professional Learning Opportunities

**“Assessment is crucial to move from opinions to informed action.”**  
National Research Council (2001)

**How well do we know our students? Are we effectively utilizing assessments and assessment data to ensure the most significant impact on student achievement?**

These questions are on the minds of every educator in our state. We often rely on numbers, scores, and trends to describe our students. High-quality assessment practices give us the tools and information to truly understand our students so that appropriate instructional decisions can be made. This begins with the implementation of a balanced assessment approach. Cognia, in collaboration with the NMPED, has developed professional learning opportunities designed to help educators better understand the New Mexico Balanced Assessment System and how to use assessment resources and practices to better leverage classroom decision-making. The goal is for every educator in New Mexico to engage in meaningful conversations with peers about how teachers, schools, districts, etc., can use the NM Balanced Assessment ideals and how they can support high-quality instructional practices.

This summer and fall, in-person professional learning support for implementing the NM BAS will be provided at no cost to the district. For more information about these training opportunities or to schedule sessions, contact Greg Howell at [Gregory.howell@cognia.org](mailto:Gregory.howell@cognia.org).

The following offerings are available:

### Developing Formative Practices in the Classroom

#### Session Description

Each type of assessment has very specific purposes and uses; however it is shown that formative practices have the greatest impact on learning and instruction. High-quality formative practices are inseparable from instruction and provide in-the-moment feedback to both students and teachers, helping to gain insight into student thinking so they can adjust instruction to best meet students' learning needs. Formative practices also relate to the MLSS directly by supporting teachers and administrators in making real-time data-based decisions, providing necessary student information to make Level 1 Interventions decisions, promoting collaborative processes during PLCs through planning of formative practices, and contributing to the positive climate of the school through

effective feedback loops where students take a more active role in their learning. Educators should embed formative practices in their planning and action plans.

**Audience**

K-12 Educators and Leadership

**iMSSA Data Next Steps**

**Session Description**

Each assessment has different purposes and uses, therefore, it is important for educators to understand the assessments they use in their schools. This session will look closely at the iMSSA and how to better understand the data it gives, how to understand and leverage the available resources, and how to connect the data to formative classroom practices to provide better information on student learning. Together we explore the Data Interaction platform, look at the types of information it provides, and engage in reflective conversations about how we can make more informed decisions for teaching and learning.

**Audience**

Grade 3-8 Educators and Leadership

**Reflection on Assessment Literacy**

**Session Description**

“Research shows that teachers spend from a quarter to a third of their professional time on assessment-related activities. Almost all do so without the benefit of having learned the principles of sound assessment.” R.J. Stiggins (1999)

Becoming assessment-literate pays off for educators. The more they understand the basic notions and processes that play a prominent role in educational decision-making, the more likely they will opt for the best choice among the options they face. These more defensible decisions will benefit the students under their care. New Mexico works under the balanced assessment ideals to better support teachers and students. To support this work, the NMPED, in partnership with The Center for Assessment and Cognia, has developed Canvas courses designed to help teachers understand these critical principles of assessment. Once educators complete one of the courses, they will be invited to a special reflection session where we will connect educators across the state to reflect on their new learning from the course and help problem-solve/develop strategies for making assessments more meaningful in the classroom.

The Assessment Literacy Canvas Courses can be found here:

<https://nmped.catalog.instructure.com/browse/assessment/courses/assessment-literacy-training>

**Audience**

K-12 Educators and Leadership