

# What Teachers Really Need to Know About Formative Assessment

## Laura Greenstein

### Chapter 1: The Fundamentals of Formative Assessment

Significant Concepts:

1. Formative Assessment is student Focussed:
  - Emphasis on how students receive information, understand it and apply it.
  - Teachers gather information about student progress and learning needs, and use this information to make instructional adjustments.
  - Students are shown how to accurately and honestly self-assess to improve their own learning.
  
2. Formative Assessment is Instructionally Informative:
  - Provides a way to align standards, content, and assessment.
  - Allows for purposeful selection of strategies.
  - Embeds assessment in instruction.
  - Guides instructional decisions.
  
3. Formative Assessment is Outcomes Based:
  - Emphasis is placed on learning outcomes.
  - Goals and standards are transparent to students.
  - Assessment criteria is clear, with comprehensible, actionable and relevant feedback.
  - Helps close the gap between what students know and the desired outcomes.
  - Provides valuable diagnostic information by generating informative data.

There is a strong link between formative assessment and self-assessment. In this light, enhanced feedback is crucial to improved learning outcomes.