

What is a State Network Educator?

Imagine over 180 educators, from 11 member states and territories, coming together to contribute and review instructional and professional learning resources to be included in the Smarter Balanced Digital Library (soon to be Tools for Teachers). These passionate educators come from Hawaii to Vermont, down to the U.S. Virgin Islands to offer their expertise in Math and ELA. This group of experts are State Network Educators (SNEs), who assure that quality resources are added to the Digital Library, which must include the formative assessment process.

Formative assessment is a deliberate process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides actionable feedback used to adjust ongoing teaching and learning strategies to improve students' attainment of curricular learning targets/goals. Each SNE, with their collaborative group, breaks down the target and claim for the grade level, related to either the Math or ELA standard, and maps out the progressions. From there, resources are created using a specific template. Once created, the resources are vetted by others, in their collaborative group. The resources created are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning. The resources can support instruction by: (1) Providing guidance on differentiated instruction for diverse learners, (2) Increasing educator understanding of assessment, (3) Engaging students in their own learning, (4) Designing professional development opportunities, and (5) Providing materials for Professional Learning

Communities. SNE's work hand in hand with Table Leads, Curriculum Coaches, and Accessibility Coaches.

Melissa Hanna, who teaches Eight Grade Math at Millsboro Middle School, attended the most recent conference talked about her experience working with other educators, *"Some of the most insightful and beneficial conversations I had when problem solving and breaking down the standards came from when I was talking to accessibility coaches and other staff provided from Smarter Balanced. These are not necessarily conversations that teachers could have if they were not part of this conference talking with the experts that were there."*

Upcoming Events

- **July 9&10 Train the Trainer Tools for Teachers**
- **July 12-16 SNE Summer Conference Cancelled**
- **May 28 Digital Library Retired**
- **June 16th Launch of Tools for Teachers (limited resources)**
- **September 2020- Grand Opening Tools for Teachers (subject to change due to external factors)**

Other Information

Formative Assessment Process:
<https://youtu.be/wpwZCqvt70U>

What is an SNE?
<https://youtu.be/bC0PJ4NIHFE>

Using data from the ICA or IABs
<https://youtu.be/9D5jdITrx3c>



If you would like to become a State Network Educator, or have questions about the process, contact Gina Voges by email at: gina.voges@laurel.k12.de.us

SNE Winter Conference 2020

In February, Delaware educators took on San Diego, California at the SNE Winter Conference 2020, sponsored by Smarter Balanced Digital Library. Educators were invited to fulfil various roles, such as State Network Educators, Table Leads, and Curriculum Coaches. Based on their expertise, participants reconstructed the progressions from elementary grades to high school in Math and ELA, for new Tools for Teachers website. This website will replace the existing Digital Library.

Besides resource creation, our contingency, had the opportunity to also pilot and give their opinion of Tools for Teachers. Melissa Wheatley, who teaches Sixth Grade ELA at Seaford Middle School, has been to three conferences. When asked how Tools for Teachers could help educators in Delaware she stated, *"Tools for Teachers is such a great resource. Teachers are able to use the available lessons to supplement, inspire new creations, or even to teach a quick mini lesson. It takes the guess work out of lesson planning for above, near, or below students. The materials are rated by other teachers, the new design is easy to navigate, and I'm excited to see what new ideas teachers continue to add. I also like the easy access to lessons and strategies for my above learners."*

We also had the opportunity for professional development on Differentiated Instruction. Taking a look at differentiation from the lens of formative assessment, there was an emphasis on using a tiered strategy for questioning in the classroom. Brandy Cooper, a Sixth Grade Teacher from Milford Central Academy, was motivated by the PD. *"Because I co-teach special education classes, I am very familiar with differentiation. After engaging in the PD and working with colleagues during the workshop, I have discovered new ways to differentiate in my classroom. I am also looking forward to utilizing resources from Tools for Teachers when it goes live, as the resources include differentiated materials."*

Much of our discussion revolved around how states and districts are using the Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) and the Interim Comprehensive Assessment. Both assessments do guide teachers and allow them to check, reflect, and connect. After administering either the IAB or the ICA, teacher can check where students are in their learning and determine where they need additional instruction or if they can move onto more challenging work. When we reflect, we use results from these

assessments to learn what's working and what needs improvement in the classroom. Lastly, teachers can connect with their colleagues during PLC to discuss and plan next steps for instruction and find resources in the teacher created Digital Library. During the conference, much of the resources created or revamped from the Digital Library, will be placed in the Connections Playlist of Tools for Teachers. In the past, I have used the Connections Playlist in the Digital Library to assist me in finding interventions for students after administering the IAB or ICA, whether they were at the Above, At/Near, or Below levels. With the new Tools for Teachers it will be more streamlined and easier to use. Stay tuned for the coming months for webinars on Using Tools for Teachers and How to Use Data with the Connections Playlist.

SNE Super Hero Day!



5 Reasons to Become a SNE

Here are some reasons our Delaware contingency think educators should become SNEs.

1. *"If you are interested in meeting educators from across the country, engaging in rich discussion on the standards and our content, and designing instructional materials that will benefit educators and students alike, then you should definitely come to an SNE conference. I left feeling excited about returning to my school and sharing what I learned."* – **Melissa Wheatley**, Sixth Grade ELA, Seaford Middle School
2. *"Having designated time to really break down and think about these concepts was extremely helpful to my practice. In this profession, we are generally so busy just trying to keep up that these critical conversations often get put on the back burner."* - **Brandy Cooper**, Sixth Grade Math, Milford Central Academy
3. *"The skills and training you receive help strengthen your use of formative assessment in your own classroom. Each time I attend I leave more knowledgeable on formative assessment and accessibility strategies I can implement at my school".* – **Caitlin Mogg**, Instructional Math Coach, Millsboro Middle School
4. *"If you are interested in meeting educators from across the country, engaging in rich discussion on the standards and our content, and designing instructional materials that will benefit educators and students alike, then you should definitely come to an SNE conference."* – **Beth Tyler**, Sixth Grade Math, Seaford Middle School
5. *"This SNE conference was the best professional development experience I have ever had the opportunity to be a part of. In addition to new training, teachers had the opportunity to take a deep dive into content standards, experienced creating a lesson plan that relates directly to what students are tested on, and had the opportunity to work with and implement formative pieces offered to support students and teachers into the lesson resources we were creating."* - **Melissa Hanna**, Eighth Grade Math, Millsboro Middle School