Defining Formative Assessment

Formative assessment is "a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes." (Perie, Marion, and Gong, 2007; Formative Assessment for Students and Teachers Collaborative, 2008).

Formative assessment reflects the following:

- Immediate feedback
- Teacher interpretation of student progress
- Immediate modification of instruction to address student needs
- Embedded within standards-aligned instruction—seamless
- Short cycle frequency—ongoing, daily, weekly
- Not mandatory at state level
- Scale—student and class

Smarter Formative Assessment Features

Formative assessment occurs in a deliberate manner during the instructional process that provides actionable feedback used to adjust ongoing teaching and learning strategies to improve students' self-assessment, reflection, and attainment of curricular learning targets/goals.

The Smarter Balanced assessment system includes the Digital Library, which is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the intent of the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning. The Digital Library incorporates collaboration features, providing educators opportunities to review resources using a star rating system and share their expertise with colleagues across the country in online forums.

The Digital Library resources are connected to four formative assessment attributes:

- Clarify Intended Learning
- Elicit Evidence
- Interpret Evidence
- Act on Evidence

The Smarter Digital Library is designed to provide professional development materials, resources, and tools aligned to the Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced claims and assessment targets. The Digital Library also provides teachers an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in various locations.

Research-based instructional tools are available on-demand to help teachers address learning challenges and differentiate instruction. The Digital Library also includes professional development materials related to all components of the assessment system, such as scoring rubrics for performance tasks (www.smarterbalanced.org).

Teachers are provided with access to this library of resources and make individual decisions about usage in support of formative assessment in the classroom on an ongoing basis.

State specific details:

Digital Library usage in support of formative assessment in Delaware is considered optional. The frequency, timing, and usage determinations are local decisions.

Formative Assessment Purposes and Uses

The consortium provides access to a Digital Library of formative assessment tools and practices that support classroom instruction. The Digital Library is an online collection of professional development and instructional resources aligned to the Common Core that support educators in their use of formative assessment strategies. It is intended to complement the interim and summative assessments by providing resources that teachers can use throughout the year in their classrooms (www.smarterbalanced.org).