



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

## **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT APPLIED TO EVIDENCE BASED HEALTH EDUCATION CAN PREVENT DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

*Formative evaluation should be used to improve health outcomes in schools.*

A forum was held on “Meaningful Education Measurement” by the Alliance for Excellent Education. Presenters at the forum were federal education legislators, measurement experts. Governors, State Education Technology staff, experts on disability statistics, administrators from model schools, state superintendents of schools and other education personnel

### **Summary**

Formative assessments should be designed to support and improve student learning and measure achievement by adjusting teaching and learning to students. Formative assessments should also directly align content standards with items to be learned. These assessments should inform daily instruction, and provide achievement information that teachers and students can act on every day to improve learning during the instructional process. Such assessment provides feedback to both teachers and pupils about skill development in order to determine the way forward.

Formative evaluation is not new in education. It was the lynch pin for the Education for the Handicapped Act of 1975. Hierarchical or task analyzed curricula of objectives was to enable teachers and learners to identify present levels of educational performance on objectives in hierarchical curricula or task analyzed curricula to determine the next objective in a sequence to be obtained. The process indicated how far the present was from the goal or the standards. Formative assessment is essential in an individualized system to accommodate the present level of performance of each child. Student and peer assessment skills are essential to this system of individualization because all stakeholders need to know when objective have been met and which is the next task in the learning sequence. States by-pass professional development requirements for assessment in teacher training which requires clinical training to make instructional decision about individual learners. Pre service training and licensure should include standards that address formative assessment.

### **Disability Prevention Issue**

Formative assessment procedures can be applied to content designed to prevent diminished health of students that may lead to disability and secondary disabling conditions. Content standards for health of children were not a topic at the forum.

**Activity**

A post-forum discussion and a letter were sent to an education measurement expert that applied formative assessment to curricula to prevent diminished health and disability.

**Principle**

Formative evaluation of health education and public health content should be implemented in schools to prevent diminished health and disability of children.