

# What is Formative Assessment?

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“Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students’ achievements of intended instructional outcomes.” (FAST-SCASS, 2008, p. 3)



## Key Features of Formative Assessment

- Learning progressions
- Clear learning goals and success criteria
- Evidence-gathering opportunities
- In-the-moment assessment to support learning
- Pedagogical action in response to evidence
- Active student involvement

## Questions for Evaluating Formative Assessment

- **Alignment:** Does the assessment directly align with your learning goals for a lesson?
- **Grain size:** Does the assessment address a limited number (i.e., 1-3) learning goals?
- **Feedback:** Does the assessment provide evidence of student learning in relation to the learning goals? Can you use that evidence to take pedagogical action?
- **Timing:** Is the assessment embedded within an instructional activity? Can you use the evidence from the assessment to take pedagogical action within the same lesson, day, or week?
- **Student Involvement:** Does the assessment provide students with specific feedback on their progress and next steps?

## References

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