

Mobile County Public Schools
Mobile, Alabama
June 10-11 and July 27-28, 2015

Larry Ainsworth presented a keynote overview of the Common Formative Assessment 2.0 process to all 250 school administrators of the 90 schools in Mobile County, Alabama on June 10, 2015. The administrators then subdivided into four grade-span groups (elementary, middle, and high school) and participated in four full days of professional learning to create a first-draft common formative assessment using the CFA 2.0 process. Larry facilitated one of the two large groups of elementary administrators. The following are their final evaluation comments at the end of the fourth day:

"This is a great process and if implemented fully will be the key to Mobile's success."

"I learned the value of starting with the CFA and building the learning from that point."

"The specificity of each and every detail throughout the writing of the CFA 2.0 unit of study. I am a hands-on person; this was very valuable to me."

"Hands-on experience writing quality assessments."

"The information was very valuable and I learned to take 'baby steps' when introducing it to staff."

"A great organizer for quick progress checks and alignment for better understanding and higher student achievement."

"How easily this systematic framework can be aligned with and for our special education and intervention students."

"This was one of the BEST workshops I've ever attended. It fit so well with special education and gave ideas for how it could be implemented."

"Feedback is important. Quick progress checks are great."

"This is a great way of helping teachers to help students learn."

"This has been WONDERFUL. Thank you!"

"Great process! Detailed; organized"

"Enjoyable and thought-provoking."

"This workshop shows we can develop an accurate inference to have on hand that will show where our students are."

"The most valuable thing I learned as a result of this workshop is that we need assessments that provide accurate inferences to ensure that our students are mastering the standards."

"Outstanding professional development opportunity! Aligned info that, when applied, will produce immediate and positive impact!"

"It is nice to have a direction and protocol for practices that good teachers have done for years."

"The information on the learning progressions and quick progress checks will ensure the alignment of the assessments to the standards."

"This follow-up training (part 2 of the 4-day process) made CFAs make more sense. I can truly see how it can make assessments more beneficial in providing essential data to increase student performance."

The most valuable thing I learned was:

"How to write a CFA because I had very little knowledge before this workshop."

"How to create a CFA by starting with Priority Standards."

"The CFA process: pre-assess; quick checks; monitor/adjust; post-assess."

"The importance of quick progress checks!"

"Importance of writing pre- and post-assessments. Importance of pre-planned quick progress checks."

"CFA process—new learning! The power of feedback—affirmation! Alignment of standards and assessments—affirmation!"

"Learning progressions and developing those quick progress checks that lead to those progressions being accomplished."

"The value of formative assessments in checking student understanding and using assessments to adjust instruction."

"This is a marathon, not a sprint—very helpful knowing this!"

K-12 teachers in Mobile County Public Schools are implementing the CFA 2.0 process in their classrooms during the 2015-16 school year.