




PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO Instructional Leaders
FROM Rebecca Garland 

FREE FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIA NC FALCON

"Because of NC Falcon my classroom is evolving into a more reflective learning environment, which directly benefits my students' educational experience and performance. Thank you!"

- Russell Long, NBCT
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

The 2006 Strategic Plan of the State Board of Education lists a balanced assessment system as one of the pillars of 21st century schooling. Also in the *Framework for Change*, the State Board reasserts the importance of a balanced assessment system. North Carolina is credited as one of the national leaders in summative assessment, but formative assessment has historically been a local responsibility. Formative assessment is an ongoing process that occurs day-by-day, minute-by-minute and provides the base or foundation for instruction and learning and occurs more often than any other assessment. As part of the Department of Public Instruction's Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE) initiative, we are widening the state's focus to include effective formative assessment practices by teachers and students.

As part the ACRE initiative, the North Carolina Formative Assessment Learning Community's On-line Network (NC FALCON) was developed to provide systemic statewide professional development in the area of formative assessment for all North Carolina educators. NC FALCON found at <http://center.ncsu.edu/falcon> was developed with the help of North Carolina educators and piloted in North Carolina schools. It is now ready for use in your district.

In response to your requests for affordable professional development and ongoing support from the agency, we are pleased to provide this free online professional development opportunity. LEAs/Charter Schools are to put together an implementation team consisting of instructional and assessment staff. These individuals are required to attend a NC FALCON Orientation and will be responsible for developing and executing a NC FALCON district implementation plan.

The next NC FALCON Orientation webinar will be held on Wednesday, July, 21 from 3-4:30 p.m. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/280140433>. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Additional orientations will be scheduled throughout the summer and fall. In order to support your LEA in developing an NC FALCON implementation plan or to assist with the implementation of the formative assessment professional development in your district, please contact Dr. Sarah McManus at smcmanus@dpi.state.nc.us.

ACADEMIC SERVICES AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER