



GISD Inspires Newsletter



Issue: #1

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Technology Tool of the Month



Formative is an online assessment tool where students can type, draw illustrations, or submit images to demonstrate their understanding. The teacher console for Formative allows the teacher to monitor student understanding in real-time.

Formative Assessment



Formative Assessment will be an ongoing piece of the GISD Inspires Newsletter.

Formative assessment is an informal way to assess students and provide immediate feedback. The purpose of formative assessment is to monitor student learning while improving teacher instruction giving the teacher the opportunity to diagnose the specific misunderstandings of students. Formative assessment takes place alongside instruction and learning. It also offers students a way to assess their own strengths and weaknesses. This can be very powerful for a student. Students can be formatively assessed in a variety of ways. [Lead4ward](#) has great resources.

Data from formative assessment can be as, or even more valuable than data from summative assessments. Discussion of formative assessment data should occur in PLC and data meetings.

Pedagogically Speaking:

Frame the Lesson

- Post learning objective
- "We will" ... "I Will"

Fundamental 5

Work In the Powerzone

- Location and proximity of teacher
- Be purposeful
- Increases on-task behaviors

Write Critically

- Helps students synthesize and retain information
- Writing &/or planning writing
- Summarizing

Frequent, Small Group Purposeful Talk

- Frequent...every 10-15 minutes
- Use as transitions in lesson or topic
- Reinforces learned content

Recognize & Reinforce

- Personalize feedback and be specific
- Builds rapport and a positive learning environment

GISD Program Highlight

High Reliability Schools

Graham ISD is in its first year with High Reliability Schools. This program is based on the research of Dr. Robert Marzano centered around 5 levels: **Safe and Collaborative Culture, Effective Teaching in Every Classroom, Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum, Standards-Referenced Reporting and Competency-Based Education.**

Involvement in this program for districts around the region is made possible by the Priddy Foundation. GISD has 24 teachers, 3 instructional coaches and 12 administrators participating in year 1. Trainings for administrators emphasize communication between all stakeholders, data based decision-making, streamlining organizational procedures and developing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Teacher training focuses on the Art and Science of Teaching.

A summary of the program lies in its name. High Reliability Organizations:

- Continually pursue error free performance
- Implement and improve systems and practices
- Monitor systems for errors and take immediate action to prevent errors from spreading
- Plan for interdependence of systems

Highly Reliable – Highly Effective