



## Central New York Data Analysis Community (CNYDAC)

Minutes from the March 12, 2009 Meeting  
Building C - OCM BOCES  
Thompson Road Campus

**Agenda Overview:** Hour 1 – Understanding Formative Assessment  
Hour 2 – Brent Bowden, Principal of A.A. Cole Elementary in  
Central Square  
Using State Assessment Data with Teachers

### 1. Introductions:

**In attendance:** Kathy Bartley (Central Square), Shelley Blodgett (Sandy Creek), Annette Borelli (Jordan Elbridge), Brent Bowden (Central Square), Cheryl Covell (TST BOCES), Don DeJohn (CNYRIC), Tom Douglas (Central Square), William Heppeler (CNYRIC), Amy Howard-McCormack (Sandy Creek), Donna Marie Norton (North Syracuse), Katie Soluri (Sandy Creek), Carri Waloven (Hannibal), Terry Ward (CNYRIC)

### 2. Review of February Minutes – Approved by members

### 3. Building a Common Understanding of Formative Assessments

- a. During welcome and introductions, members also brainstormed the following words associated with formative assessment:

|                |             |                |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| frequency      | information | on-going       |
| criteria       | reflection  | individualized |
| under-utilized | curriculum  | quick/easy     |
| informative    | impactful   | specific       |
- b. Members read the Harvard Education Letter article “(In)formative Assessments” by Robert Rothman which clarified the purposes of formative, benchmark, and summative assessments. During the reading members highlighted a key word, key phrase, and key sentence from the text.
- c. Members then shared, sorted and categorized their highlighted information.

- d. With this background knowledge, group members then created the following “matchbook definitions” of formative assessment:

Formative assessment is a range of activities that provide timely feedback to improve learning.

Ongoing frequent measures that give individual performance feedback to teachers and students.

Measures of student performance that provide immediate feedback to teachers and students on individual learning.

**4. Member Sharing** – Brent Bowden, Principal, A.A. Cole Elementary,  
Central Square School District

Brent shared ELA and math assessment data which he generates for the district to be shared with teachers. Teachers receive class profile data on their students including demographic distributions as well as class and individual item analyses. Teachers are able to view how students have performed in the past and will eventually receive information on how their students performed on this year’s assessments.

Highlights of Brent’s presentation included:

- Building trust with staff is important when sharing data and it does not just happen overnight
- Data is to be used for improvement, not punitively
- It is important to consider class make-up/assignments when viewing the data
- Comparison data provides a context for analyzing one’s own results
- Important for teachers to receive feedback on student performance

**5. Next Meeting** – May 14, 2009 1:00 pm

**6. Meeting Calendar for 2009-10**

Survey data showed members are interested in meeting 4 times within the year. Wednesday or Thursday afternoons were preferred in the survey.

After having the February meeting before the Data Administrators meeting at 10:30 a.m., many members expressed interest in continuing with such a format.

Data Warehouse meetings for 2009-10 are tentatively scheduled for:

August 27<sup>th</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup>, December 10<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and June 10<sup>th</sup>

If CNYDAC were to take place from 10:30-12:30, which of the four dates above would be best? Members discussed avoiding February due to the weather as well as ELA scoring and upcoming Math assessments. We also discussed avoiding June due to it being the end of the school year and verification time.