North River Collaborative’s cross-district training for DDMs builds assessment literacy for k-12 art, music, physical education, and science teacher teams.

**Focus Area**
- District Priorities
- Formative Feedback
- Assessment Literacy
- Collaboration

**Presenters:** Joanne Haley Sullivan, Deborah White, Susan Henry

**District(s):** Abington, Avon, Bridgewater-Raynham, Hanover, Rockland, West Bridgewater, and Whitman-Hanson

**Best Practice Description:**
North River Collaborative partnered with West Ed to support content experts in Science, Art, Music and Physical Education from seven districts. Training in the selection, development, and use of Core Course Objectives and assessment literacy was provided to these cross-district teams to develop common assessments as District Determined Measures (DDMs).

**Strategies:**
The **cycle at each step** includes: **learn** through WestEd presentations and resources, **research/work** sharing personal and district resources with team, gathering other resources, **discuss** with team and proposed decision/action, **confirmation** from colleagues in district, individual **reflection and sharing** via online conversations with teams for debriefing, and **determine** outcomes & next steps.

- **Instruction** - WestEd provided presentations of structured instructional modules including direct instruction and modeling on assessment literacy basics including: universal design, effective question development, overall assessment structure, examining current assessments, and rubric development.
- **Practice** - Application of concepts on sample content provided by WestEd.
- **Application** - Immediately apply to content within small-groups of cross-district content experts.

A closed [Google Website](http://example.com) is being used as common location for: resources, discussion boards, sharing and posting information and current assessments, & communication with instructors and team members.

**How is the work structured?**
Through seven structured sessions with intervening follow-up tasks, cross-district teams were organized by content and grade level to complete the development of District Determined Measures:

- **Consider important learning standards.**
  - Examine learning standards closely; determine CCO’s content/skill & cognitive demand (Bloom).
  - Examine scope, assess-ability, centrality, and relevance (see “… Assessment Review Template”).

- **Determine CCOs**
  - Share current assessments used in districts to see examples of content and question types.
  - Identify core course objectives (CCOs) for consideration for DDM; consult with district colleagues regarding proposed CCOs; discuss and obtain feedback; agree upon target CCOs for DDM.

- **Examine current and research exemplar assessments** (related to identified CCO or others).
  - Examine assessments to determine quality related to: question types, answer options, scoring rubrics/scales, attention to universal design, differentiation (e.g., ELL, disabilities).
- Determine which type of growth measure to develop.
- Draft assessment items and assessment structure.
- Conduct series of mini-pilots to test question types & scoring; review data; modify items & scoring.
  - Target students -- small sample from own classroom. Multi-district teams review an analysis of pilot assessment results to enhance the validity and reliability of the measures, and revise.
  - Prior-grade students (simulate pretest).
  - Target students – larger sample; implemented by other teachers.

**Next steps?**
- Participants are conducting follow-up pilots across grade levels or departments to determine how well assessments measure growth and to validate the assessment items.
- Complete documentation to ensure accurate and consistent implementation practices.
- Review and adoption/adaptation by districts.
- Participants serve as liaison to district departmental colleagues to analyze assessment data by district to identify potential CCO gaps in curriculum alignment.
- Full implementation of assessments in multiple districts.

**Contacts**

| Joanne Haley Sullivan, North River Collaborative, jhaleysullivan@nrcollab.org |
| Deborah White, North River Collaborative, dwhite@nrcollab.org |
| Susan Henry, Learning Innovations at WestEd, shenry2@wested.org |