

## An Invitation to Join a Professional Learning Project with Alberta Assessment Consortium

The Alberta Assessment Consortium (AAC) has received a conditional grant from Alberta Education to support and enhance classroom assessment capacity. The project will focus on the core curricular areas as outlined in the Alberta Education Prototyping Guide, i.e., Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Wellness and Arts.

AAC is seeking to connect with cohorts of 3 – 5 teachers who are currently teaching at the same grade level and subject. While cohort members do not need to be teaching at the same school or even in the same jurisdiction, cohort members would work collaboratively on a similar assessment task/project/learning activity.

Cohorts will meet through a combination of face to face and technology mediated formats. Cohort meetings could be scheduled in various locations depending on where cohort members reside. Project activities will take place during February through May 2015. Specific dates will be set once the cohorts have been formed.

The general framework for the project is as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>preliminary 2 day cohort meeting (Friday and Saturday) with the AAC facilitators to determine the classroom assessment focus and scope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AAC will provide necessary Friday sub coverage for each participating teacher</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>classroom filming – scheduled in collaboration with the individual teacher(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AAC will provide up to ½ day sub coverage for each participating teacher for the on-site filming</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.5 day (Friday and Saturday morning) follow-up conversation with the teacher cohort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AAC will provide necessary Friday sub coverage for each participating teacher</li> </ul>

The project is not intended to interrupt the daily assessment work in the classroom but rather to walk alongside teachers through a collaborative process. As AAC facilitators work at elbow with teachers, project participants will

- explore dimensions of sound classroom assessment practice; and
- provide exemplars of effective assessment. Exemplars will mainly consist of video clips of teachers and students engaged in authentic assessment conversations to capture the range of the assessment process, i.e. planning, teaching, coaching/feedback, marking/reporting. Copies of assessment materials such as tasks, rubrics, and samples of student work might also be included.

Exemplars will be prepared by AAC for posting in the public access section of the AAC website. Teachers and students will be asked to sign the AAC release form outlining the parameters of the usage. For classroom filming, any students for whom permission is not provided will be seated within the classroom out of range of the camera and we will not collect samples of their work. At the end of the grant, all unused video footage will be destroyed.

Copyright on the materials developed will reside with AAC; however, materials developed for posting will be placed in the public section of the AAC website so they will be accessible to all Alberta teachers. Councils will be encouraged to post links to the project materials on their websites. The potential exists to highlight the project products and lessons learned at various Council conferences and the AAC Fall Conference.

Teachers from previous AAC cohort projects have noted positive impacts on their classroom assessment practice which they are able to transfer to all areas of their teaching assignment. For more information, please contact your Specialist Council.