



Student-Centered Assessment Network

Focused on Formative Assessment

Who We Are

The Student-Centered Assessment Network (SCAN) is focused on demonstrating linkages across high-quality formative assessment practices, teacher empowerment, and improved student outcomes in high schools, including academic learning, engagement, and agency. We are organized as a Networked Improvement Community (NIC), which means we use a continuous improvement process to develop, implement, test, and refine formative assessment practices in real-world settings. SCAN currently includes teachers from Rhode Island high schools who are interested in growing in their practice and helping students thrive.

What We Do

Teachers and researchers in the SCAN NIC work together to implement Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles that test and document specific aspects of formative assessment that can improve outcomes in the classroom. PDSA cycles are driven by three key questions:

- What are we trying to accomplish?
- What changes can we make?
- How will we know whether a change yields improvement?

The PDSA cycles are then repeated to refine and test interventions while scaling up when there is an indication that an intervention is promising.

Why a NIC?

NICs are action-oriented collaborations focused on measuring the effectiveness of small changes to address problems of practice. Participants are empowered to increase their capacity to implement simple changes and quickly collect data to inform practice. They then collaborate throughout PDSA cycles to learn what works, for whom, and under what conditions.

Where We Are in Our Efforts

With funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, SCAN launched in 2017 with 23 teachers from East Providence and Westerly high schools in Rhode Island. The NIC now comprises 48 teachers from East Providence, Westerly, and Central Falls high schools. In the coming years, SCAN plans to expand so that we can continue to share lessons learned and effective strategies with other colleagues at participating schools and, eventually, with other schools in Rhode Island and beyond.

To find out more about SCAN, please contact Steve Plank, splank@air.org.