Comparing formative and summative assessment

Type of assessment	What is the Purpose?	Who will use the information?	How will it be used?	Is the use formative or summative?
State Test	Measure level of achievement on state content standards	State	Determine AYP	Summative
		District, Teacher Teams	Determine program effectiveness	Summative
	Identify percentage of students meeting performance standards on state content standards	State	Comparison of schools/districts	Formative
		District, Teacher Teams	Develop programs/interventions for groups or individuals	Formative
District bench-mark, interim, or common assessment	Measure level of achievement on state content standards	District, Teacher Teams	Determine program effectiveness	Summative
		District, Teacher Teams	Identify program needs	Formative
	Identify students needing additional help	District, Teacher Teams, Teachers	Plan interventions for groups or individuals	Formative
Classroom assessment	Measure level of achievement on learning targets taught	Teachers	Determine report card grade	Summative
	Diagnose student strengths and areas needing additional instruction	Teacher Teams, Teachers	Revise teaching plans for next year/semester	Formative
			Plan further instruction/differentiate instruction for these students	Formative
		Teachers, Students	Provide feedback to students	Formative
	Understand strengths and areas needing improvement	Students	Self-assess, set goals for further study/work	Formative

Program: curriculum, texts/resources, and pedagogy

Identifying program needs: Are we teaching to the right content standards/learning goals?
Do we have sufficient texts and other resources?

Excerpted from Chappuis, J.(2009). Seven Strategies of Assessment *for* Learning, Portland, OR: Assessment Training Institute

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