SCAN
Student-Centered Assessment Network
Focused on Formative Assessment

2021 STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT NETWORK

SCFA Description and Design Principles

The Student-Centered Assessment Network (SCAN) was a Networked Improvement Community partnership among Rhode Island teachers from three high schools and the American Institutes for Research (AIR), operating from 2017–21. SCAN focused on helping teachers incorporate student-centered formative assessment (SCFA) practices to support improved instruction, increased student learning, and greater student engagement in the service of enhanced student agency. Our theory of improvement was that SCFA would not only inform teachers about their students' progress but also more directly involve students in tracking and owning their own learning.

We define student-centered formative assessment, engagement, and agency as follows:

In our adaptation of Albert Bandura's work, we define *agency* as students' feeling they can take action to affect their learning outcomes. Students displaying a high degree of agency can—and will—envision an outcome, plan for an outcome, enact that plan, reflect on progress, adjust accordingly, and continue to pursue their goals.

We define *engagement* as the nature of students' interaction with and psychological investment in school. This engagement derives from both internal factors and the school context and is defined in three dimensions:

- Emotional
- Cognitive
- Behavioral

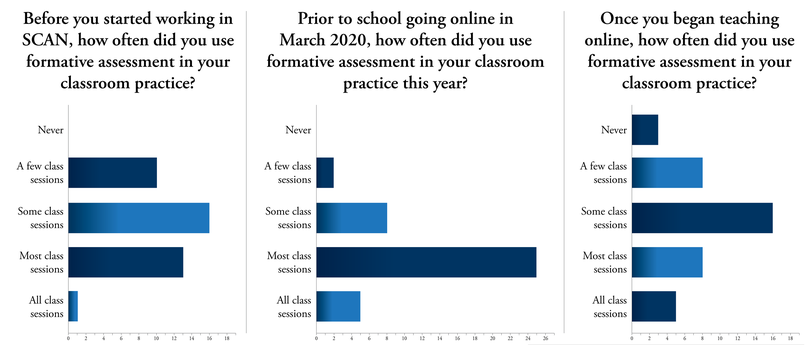
SCFA is assessment *for* learning, conceptualized as follows:

- Frequent
- Collaborative
- Reflective
- Utilizes measurement
- Embedded
- Open

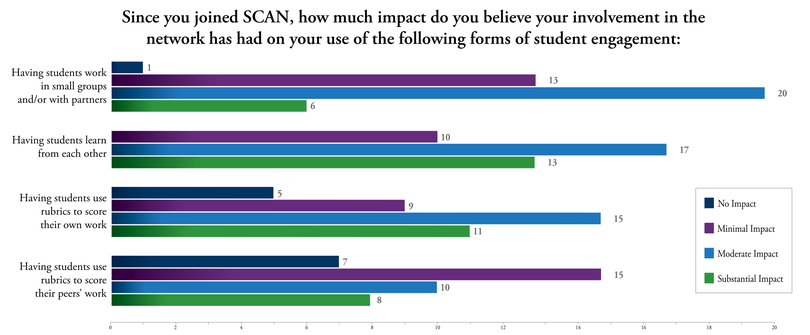
PNI Data on Experiences

The following graphs are from an April 2020 survey conducted by our partners at Partners for Network Improvement (PNI) at the University of Pittsburgh. These graphs demonstrate that SCAN had an impact on participating teachers' practice, but one that was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions to network meetings, teachers' instructional environments, and relationships with students.

(PNI Data on Experiences, continued)



Source: Partners for Network Improvement survey results from SCAN teachers, April 2020.



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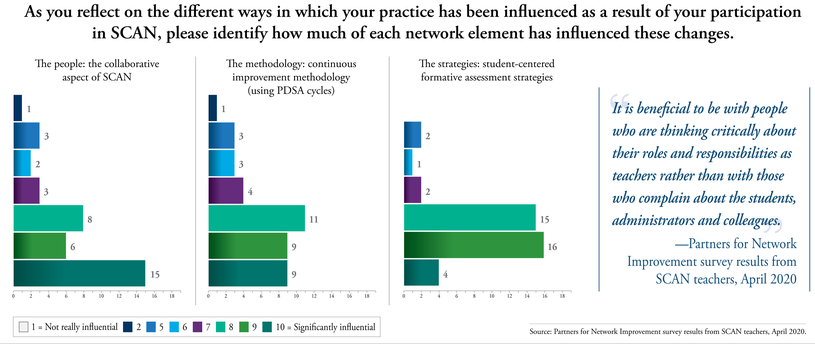
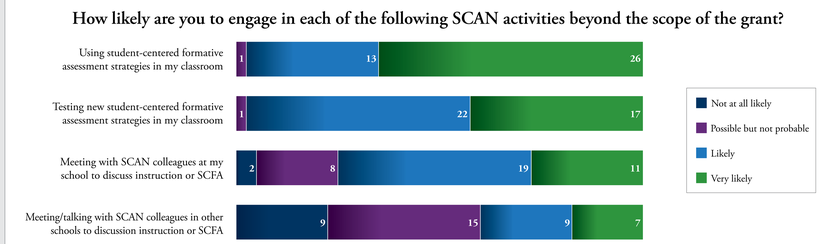


It is beneficial to be with people who are thinking critically about their roles and responsibilities as teachers rather than with those who complain about the students, administrators and colleagues.

—Partners for Network Improvement survey results from SCAN teachers, April 2020

Source: Partners for Network Improvement survey results from SCAN teachers, April 2020.

(PNI Data on Experiences, continued)



Sustainability Lessons

- On the survey, teachers reported that participation in SCAN coincided with increased use of student-centered formative assessment practices.
- However, teachers also reported being less likely to use SCFA once classes moved online.
- A majority of teachers reported that SCAN participation had a moderate or substantial impact on how they worked with students, including how involved students were in their own learning.
- Survey data suggest that connections with other teachers (e.g., "The People: The Collaborative Aspect of the Work") were key to the network's impact.
- After schools closed, SCAN tried to limit burden on teachers but perhaps should have done more small-group and flexible outreach.
- The absence of the network—particularly the structure of meeting with colleagues—will make continuing network activities difficult.
- Sharing effective, evidence-based strategies—an important Hub activity—is an essential strategy for network success and sustainability.
- People and relationships were key to the success of SCAN. The disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic were difficult because they interrupted those connections.
- Hub members created a sustainability strategy—focused on guiding school teams through setting up internal structures—to distribute to school teams, in the hope that continuing these personal connections would support sustainability of the work.

	MAY 2020	JUNE 2020	SEPT 2020	OCT 2020	NOV 2020	NOV 2020	JAN-FEB-MAR 2021
INTENDED	Virtual school team meetings	End-of-year network convening (in person)	Monthly schoolwide team meetings (in person)	Virtual monthly meeting	Whole-network convening	Publication of high-leverage change idea index	Hosting sustainability kickoff meetings with school teams; team leaders host subsequent meetings
ACTUAL	Virtual school team meetings canceled; network-wide office hours held	Convening canceled	Monthly schoolwide team meetings; coaches available for optional planning sessions and data discussions (virtual)	Virtual monthly team meetings; coaches scheduled discussions (not held)	Virtual network convening	Publication of high-leverage change idea index	Sustainability meeting agendas emailed to school coordinators and school teams

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AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH®
1400 Crystal Drive, 10th Floor | Arlington, VA 22202-3289 | 202.403.5000
www.air.org

Mary Bridget Burns, Researcher, *American Institutes for Research*
Erica DeVoe, Teacher, *Westerly (RI) Public Schools*
Stephen Plank*, Managing Researcher, *American Institutes for Research;* splank@air.org
Matthew J. Welch, Senior Researcher, *American Institutes for Research*

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