

Assessment in the Standards Based Classroom

Balanced Assessment includes three types of assessment. **Formative assessments** provide continuous information on individual student progress on standards. Highly Effective Questioning is one technique that can be used as a classroom formative assessment strategy. The second level is **benchmark assessments**. **Benchmark Assessments** are student assessments used throughout a unit or course to monitor progress toward learning goals and to guide instruction. Effective benchmark assessments check understanding and application of knowledge and skills rather than recall; consequently, effective benchmark assessments include performance tasks. For the 2006-2007 school year benchmarks have been created on the Online Assessment System that can be administered every nine weeks as pre/post diagnostic assessments. These assessments should be utilized to modify instruction based on individual student progress on standards. The third level of assessment is *summative assessments* that are given at the end of a course or year of study such as the Georgia Criterion Reference Competency Test (CRCT) or Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT).

Written by: Dr. Wanda Creel
Director, School Improvement Division
Georgia Department of Education