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## ELA Think Tank / Leadership

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May. Graduation month! I have enjoyed reading the Facebook posts from my friends, fellow teachers, and colleagues at different schools and districts about graduation events at their schools. The excitement at this time of year is palpable. And so is the need for a summer break! I hope to see some of you at various events this summer. The e-update will come out again in June and July with any pertinent updates, and we will pick-up in full force in August.

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## News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

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### Survey Monkey for ELA Think Tank:

Please take a few minutes to complete the ten question survey at this address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DXYFZ8T>. I want to use your input to create an agenda of discussion items for our 2016-2017 webinars, face-to-face meetings, and monthly e-updates.

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## 2016 Legislative Session

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The **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) will shape our work in the future. CDE will launch a state-wide “listening tour” to gather feedback on the ESSA legislation and its implementation in Colorado. You can find more information about the “listening tour” [here](#). CDE has also set up an [ESSA Blog](#) to help gather and disseminate information.

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## NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes

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**NCTE**: The National Council of Teachers of English ([NCTE](#)) provides great resources for English teachers. If you have not done so, you should check out the #nctechat on Twitter. These are great sessions! To see the archives of #nctechat and a calendar of upcoming chats, click [here](#).

**NCTE has published its Resolution on Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline**. You can read that position statement [here](#).

Check out NCTE’s position statement entitled “**Formative Assessment that Truly Informs Instruction**”; that document may be found [here](#).

**CLAS**: The [Colorado Language Arts Society](#) has information posted for its [2016 Regional Fall Conference](#) -- “For the Love of Teaching / Reclaiming the Classroom.” This year’s speakers

include Taylor Mali, Jimmy Santiago Baca, and Sarah Brown Wessling. CLAS is also accepting proposals through July 1, 2016 for the [2016 Conference](#).

Have you ever considered writing an article for [Statement](#), the [Journal for the Colorado Language Arts Society](#)? They publish articles from Colorado teachers on a range of recurring topics: teaching ideas, outstanding lesson plans, vignettes from the classroom, expressive writing by Colorado teachers, and more.

**CCIRA**: The [Colorado Council International Reading Association](#) is planning its 2017 Conference: “Golden Ingredients for 50 Years of Literacy.” Proposals are being accepted until June 15, 2016. More info [here](#).

### Research & Resources

According to Hattie (2012) and Black & Wiliam (2001) **formative evaluation** refers to any activity used as an assessment of learning progress before or during the learning process itself. In contrast with formative assessment, the summative assessment evaluates what students know or have learned at the end of the teaching, after all is done. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about the difference between formative and summative assessment methods. In another [video](#) you can learn from teachers who describe their experience with formative evaluation.

*Dylan Wiliam video on Formative Assessment:*  
<http://www.journeytoexcellence.org.uk/videos/expertspeakers/formativeassessmentdylanwiliam.asp>

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## Contact Info

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Please feel free to contact me with any feedback on this e-update or to suggest topics or questions you would like to see addressed in future updates. I want this monthly newsletter to be useful as you do the vital day-to-day work with your students and colleagues. I may be reached at [Puzick\\_v@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Puzick_v@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6583.