

Top 10 FAQs on K-12 Implementation of Common Core

1) Q. When will the intermediate and high school writing teams start writing their units of study?

A. The **high school** writing teams are scheduled to work with Quality Teaching with English Learners (QTEL) on December 18, 2012 and 19, 2012 and February 6, 2013 in the following content courses: Biology, US History, World History, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, 9th/10th English, 11th/12th English.

The **intermediate** writing teams are scheduled to work with QTEL during January and February 2013 in the following content courses: 7th Grade Science, 8th Grade History, 6th Grade Math, Algebra I, 6th Grade ELA, 7th Grade ELA and 8th Grade ELA

2) Q. When will elementary implement their next units of study?

A. The next units of study will be implemented in May-June of this school year. In response to feedback, the timeline for implementation has been adjusted. In order to provide additional staff development in the areas of 21st Century Learning (Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity), Academic Language Development, Effective EL Strategies, Use of Text Sets, CCSS Assessments

3) Q. When will intermediate and high school teachers implement their first units of study?

A. Teachers in the identified content courses will implement the units of study developed by the writing teams following the CST testing window. This timeline will allow the writing teams and CLAS teachers to pilot the developed units of study prior to district-wide implementation. It will also allow teachers to engage in professional development in the areas of: 21st Century Learning (Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity), Academic Language Development, Effective EL Strategies, Use of Text Sets, CCSS Assessments

4) Q. How will all secondary teachers, even those outside of the selected content courses, participate in CCSS instruction?

A. All teachers are participating in strategies promoted by the CLAS teachers. Also, all teachers will be asked to engage in a Grade 6-12 academic language strategy, as identified by the District, each 9 weeks. The implementation and professional development of the first strategy will occur in the last semester of the 2012-2013 school year.

5) Q. Will classroom teachers have to write their own units of study?

A. The district recognizes that curriculum writing is a difficult process that requires support and professional development. During the spring, K-12 teachers interested in writing additional units of study during the summer will be identified. The District supports and encourages any teacher that would like to independently write their own units of study. Please refer to the district's theoretical framework and similar lesson design elements from the district's unit and lesson templates.

6) Q. What should the K-3 teachers do if more time is necessary to teach the units of study?

A. The expectation is that teachers continue with the unit of study and complete the collaborative project and performance based assessment. If they go past the time allotted in the pacing guide, they should follow the green section into the next theme and finish the unit of study. If needed, they may omit one or two selections in order to meet the original time line.

7) Q. How can the Grades 4-5 math units of study be modified if necessary to complete prior to winter break?

A. The writing team of the fourth grade unit has identified lessons which are essential to understanding the big idea and essential questions of the unit. The suggestion is to give the Pre-assessment and Lesson A on Day 1. Then proceed with Lesson 1 and read the 100 Hungry Ants book to see arrays in a different light. If most students get the array concept after Lesson 1, teachers can skip Lesson 2. Lessons 3 and 4 should be taught on separate days. Teachers can remove the Menu Activities from Lessons 5, 10, and 15 and use them as support for the other lessons. Teachers would continue with the rest of the unit as written, with Lessons B and C inserted as time allows. Students would then take the final assessment on December 21. For both fourth and fifth grade, if teachers choose to teach all of the identified key lessons and continue past the winter break, sites will need to identify ways in which they will teach all of the mathematical strands assessed on the CST in May. If school sites have individual concerns, they can contact Ed Services directly for support and assistance with planning.

8) Q. Will teachers have the opportunity to provide feedback on the units of study?

A. Yes, the teachers can provide feedback to their CLAS teacher to take back to the CLAS teacher feedback sessions held:

- Thursday, December 6, 2012, 12:30-2:30- Grades 2 and 3 ELA – CLAS Office
- Monday, December 10, 12:30-2:30-Grades K-1 ELA – CLAS Office
- Friday, December 14, 2012- 10:00-12:00-Grades 4-5 Math – Board Room

Teachers can also provide direct feedback by grade level at the teacher feedback meetings scheduled for January 2013.

9) Q. Will the units of study affect benchmark scores?

A. The first benchmark assesses the first 10 weeks of instruction, eight of which were taught prior to the implementation of the second and third grade units of study. The Common Core asks students to apply their learning and knowledge at a deeper level, therefore, the students should show more progress towards learning goals. On Benchmark One, the majority of the schools scored better on either their second and third grade scores compared to last year. The district average on the benchmarks Grade 2-3 remained consistent.

10) Q. How can I find out more information about the Common Core?

A. Go to our Common Core website. You will find it on the SAUSD's home page on the left hand side. On the website, you will find videos, presentations and pamphlets that will provide you further information.