

## **Top 10 FAQs on K-12 Implementation of Common Core**

### **1) Q. How will the District select grade-level and course specific teachers to co-author CCSS units of study in the summer?**

A. The expert teachers will be recruited to ensure equal grade level and course representation. Principal recommendation will be considered. The window of interest will open March 4-April 1, 2013. Interest forms will be available through the CLAS teachers or through the Staff Development website by March 1, 2013. All interest forms should be submitted to Maria Abundiz in the Staff Development Office by April 1, 2013.

### **2) Q. Which schools will be piloting the SBAC assessments in the spring?**

A. There are two different categories of schools that will be piloting the SBAC Assessments. The first category, designated Scientific Sites, was selected by SBAC and includes the following schools: Harvey, Garfield, Kennedy, Madison, Pio Pico, MacArthur, Mendez, Villa and Saddleback. The Scientific Sites will be assigned a two-week period to test from February 20-May 10, 2013.

The second category, designated Volunteer Sites, will be open to all schools who apply by Friday, January 18, 2013 to SAUSD's Research and Evaluation Department. The Volunteer Sites will ensure that schools have the opportunity to experience the basic functionality of the test administration. The SBAC pilot will have a shorter test administration window, which will only be open between late April to May. The district administration will work with sites to determine which schools can participate without conflicting with STAR testing.

### **3) Q. How will CLAS teachers support sites after the winter break?**

A. CLAS teachers will continue to support the schools sites on their designated days. The remaining time will be directed by the district to support the development of training modules in the areas of complex text, collaborative conversations and academic language with embedded EL strategies throughout and the development of curriculum maps to support additional units of study. In addition, during District directed days, CLAS teachers will strengthen their knowledge through differentiated professional development based on their needs.

### **4) Q. What are the training modules and how will they be used at the school sites?**

A. There will be three K-12 training modules developed in the areas of complex text, collaborative conversations and academic language with embedded EL strategies throughout the modules. Each module will include 4 one-hour training sessions, which should be taught during modified Wednesdays, or site directed staff development hours/days.

### **5) Q. Is there more than one way to do a close read?**

A. Yes, depending on the context, purpose and audience, there are different ways to lead a close read. Students should do an intensive analysis of a text in order to come to terms with what it says, how it says it, and what it means. Despite the various ways in which you can introduce a close read, there are certain

essentials, which remain constant, which include text dependent questions, minimization of external explanations, and focus of attention on texts and ideas.

**6) Q. How will CLAS teachers and curriculum specialists support teachers' knowledge of effective EL strategies necessary to successfully implement the units of study?**

A. CLAS teachers will survey site-level teachers to identify needed professional development in order to build capacity and implement EL strategies embedded in the units of study. Professional development sessions on identified needs will be provided on Thursdays after school. Teachers will be provided Factor A pay to attend optional training.

**7) Q. What is the latest update on the high school units of study?**

A. On December 18 and 19, secondary writing teams were provided background on our theoretical framework, were provided professional development on effective scaffolding for English Learners to our secondary writing teams and began the writing process by Quality Teaching for English Learners (QTEL). Course-alike writing teams try to meet prior to February 6, 2013, to develop the first draft/sketch of units of study. On February 6, the writing teams will receive feedback from QTEL, department chairs and administration to revise and finalize the units of study for the pilot. By the end of March, the writing teams will pilot various lessons from units of study to ensure an effective unit of study for all teachers in the identified courses to implement after the CST.

**8) Q. Will teachers be paid to attend the K-5 teacher feedback forums?**

A. No, teachers will not be paid Factor A as the feedback forums are voluntary. Teachers can provide feedback through alternative means including CLAS teacher collection or online surveys.

**9) Q. May CLAS teachers proctor tests during district-wide testing including CST and CAHSEE?**

A. No, they may not proctor any assessment.

**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.