

Top 10 FAQs on K-12 Implementation of Common Core

1) Q. How and when will all secondary teachers be involved in the Common Core implementation?

A. Currently the **high school** writing teams are developing units of study 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 begin writing in 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.

Beginning in late January to early February, all secondary teachers, including elective teachers, will be provided professional development on text complexity and close reading of complex text through a professional development module. In addition, to text complexity, all secondary teachers will receive professional development on either collaborative conversations or development of academic language.

2) How were the secondary units of study writing teams chosen?

A. Initially both principals and secondary curriculum specialists were asked for recommendations of who should part of the secondary writing teams. The information was later brought to the department chairs and additional teachers were added. If teachers would like to be part of the writing teams during the summer, they are encouraged to apply during the window of interest which 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.

3) What will be the content area focus for the upcoming K-5 units of study?

A. To maintain consistency and ensure effective implementation, the content areas will remain consistent for both the first and second unit of study. Therefore, K-3 teachers will implement a second unit of study in English Language Arts and Grade 4-5 teachers will implement a second unit of study in Mathematics after the CST this school year.

4) What were the response results on the K-3 Common Core Implementation survey?

A. The results from the 311 K-3 teachers who responded to the Common Core survey was overwhelmingly positive. The challenges noted in the comments and responses were related to the timing/pace and readability of the units of study. Those challenges among others are being addressed as we develop the next set of units of study. Two key positive results were the level of engagement of the students and the level of support received during the implementation of the units. The responses are highlighted on the following page:

12. Based on my observations, students were actively engaged during the unit implementation.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		30.5%	93
Agree		59.7%	182
Unsure		3.6%	11
Disagree		5.6%	17
Strongly disagree		0.7%	2
		answered question	305
		skipped question	6

14. Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness of support you received during the CCSS unit implementation?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very effective		68.0%	210
Somewhat effective		27.2%	84
Unsure		1.3%	4
Ineffective		2.3%	7
Did not request support		1.3%	4
	if you marked "unsure" or "ineffective," please explain.		24
		answered question	309
		skipped question	2

5) How can other elementary teachers provide feedback?

A. The 4th and 5th grade teachers will receive the link to their survey during the week of January 14th. The Grades 4-5 math survey will be open from Wednesday, January 16th through Wednesday, January 23rd. Elementary teachers will also have the opportunity to attend two Units of Study Feedback Sessions on January 17th and January 24th from 3:00-4:00pm.

6) Why were the four Elementary Units of Study Feedback Sessions reduced to only two?

A. Due to lack of registration on OLM, it was decided to consolidate the four sessions into two sessions. The dates will remain the same, however, now all K-5 teachers may attend Thorpe on January 17th and Heroes on January 24th from 3:00-4:00. A new flyer with the revised information was sent out last week.

7) How can I get more information about Common Core Implementation?

A. We will be holding a CCSS 6 Month Update Meeting for elementary staff on January 23rd, intermediate staff on January 31st and high school staff on February 7th from 3:30-4:30. The update will highlight SAUSD's progress towards implementing the Common Core, discuss future opportunities for staff to get involved in the

implementation and feedback process and discuss next steps. A flyer will be sent out to all staff during the week of January 14th.

8) Q. How were the sites selected to pilot SBAC?

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, includes any school that applied by Friday, January 18, 2013 to SAUSD's Research and Evaluation Department.

9) 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 three key areas: 1) development of training modules in the areas of complex text, collaborative conversations and academic language with embedded EL strategies throughout, 2) development of curriculum maps and additional units of study, and 3) develop and facilitate after school optional professional development in the areas identified by teachers and administration including: effective EL strategies (GLAD, Thinking Maps), big idea and essential questions, and general CCSS overview. In addition, during District directed days, CLAS teachers will strengthen their knowledge through differentiated professional development based on their needs.

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.