

Coordinator Brief To Curriculum Council
Reading/Language Arts
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Informational /Issues Update (State/Federal/County/Committees)

Distinguished School Awards

Four Monterey County Schools receive award

- Congratulations to the following secondary schools received this prestigious award! The schools were asked to identify two signature practices that they believe led to increase student achievement. Explanations of their practices will soon be posted on the CDE website. Many elements of their practices can be replicated at other sites. Interestingly, the two high schools focused on their freshman student body, while the two middle schools focused on their writing program. All four schools took many similar steps to involve their community to meet the needs of all students. These schools are willing to talk with other schools and encourage administrators and teachers to visit their campuses to learn more about how they got started, what were the challenges, and how they use their results to continue to improve their programs. An award assembly, with Supt. Torlakson, will be held next month.
 - Carmel High School
 - Freshman Foundations, College going culture
 - Carmel Middle School
 - Response to Intervention, Writing curriculum
 - Monterey High School
 - Freshman Academy, Open Access AP
 - San Benancio Middle School
 - Writing program, Restructured day

CDE Updates

Special Education Resource Page

- Orange COE has provided several resources and guidelines on what the CCSS and new tests will mean for SPED students and teachers can be found at <http://www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA/Pages/CCSS-in-Special-Education.aspx>

Parent Handbook

- A handbook, created by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association in consultation with the California State Parent Teacher Association (PTA), gives parents an introduction to California's CCSS and a summary of what students are expected to learn as they advance from kindergarten through grade eight. Languages include: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese. The handbook can be found at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/ccsesahndbktrans.asp>
- A guide, available in English and Spanish, for the CCSS in grades K-8 and two for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics) created by the National PTA. The guide includes key items that children should be learning in each grade and activities parents can do at home to support their child's learning can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

State Legislative Activities

AB 484 Bonilla

- Suspension of all STAR assessments, which do not meet the federal ESEA act. Potential savings to the state, approximately \$15,000,000. This bill was discussed at the March 13, 2013 SBE meeting. The bill was introduced to the Assembly's Education Committee and was amended on April 17th. The bill is now known as the CALMAPP 21—California Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress for the 21st Century. This bill goes beyond the suspension of the non-ESEA required tests. It includes several of Supt. Torlakson's recommendations (science testing, matrix sampling, diagnostic testing, etc). The bill with the latest amendments can be found at: <http://lanterman.ca.networkofcare.org/dd/legislate/state-bill-text.aspx?id=260285&bill=AB%20484&sessionid=201300>

Other Resources

Basal Alignment Project

- 15 new writing enhanced assignments have been added to the "Scaffolded Writing" folder. Again, you will notice a W at the beginning of the file name, followed by the publisher, basal, grade level, and story title. These 15 stories come from HMH StoryTown, HMH Trophies, and MH Imagine It!

Anthology Alignment Project

- The following list of publishers will be addressed. The group code is pkx4sp
 - (6-8) Holt - Elements of Literature
 - (6-10) Holt - Literature and Language Arts
 - (6-8) McDougal Littell - Language Network
 - (6-10) McDougal Littell - Literature
 - (6-10) McDougal Littell - The Language of Literature
 - (9-10) McGraw-Hill - Glencoe Literature: The Reader's Choice
 - (6) McGraw-Hill Open Court
 - (6-8) Prentice Hall (CA) - Literature
 - (6-10) Prentice Hall - Literature
 - (9-10) Prentice Hall - Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) (taken from sbac@cde.ca.gov)

Pilot Test

- On May 29, 2013, Smarter Balanced will release a set of computer-based Practice Tests for grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. For each grade, a Practice Test will be available in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The Practice Tests will include an array of item types, including selected response, constructed response, and performance tasks, and will be built using test blueprints similar to those for the operational tests. In addition, the Practice Tests will support several accommodations including: text-to-speech for mathematics and ELA tests (not including ELA passages); Braille for mathematics and ELA tests; and, for mathematics tests only, Spanish pop-up glossaries for construct-irrelevant terms and American Sign Language. The Practice Tests will be publicly available on the Smarter Balanced Web site and will be accessible until the implementation of the operational Smarter Balanced assessments in the 2014–15 school year.
- Feedback from schools that were a part of the Scientific Study was shared at today's meeting. Overall, students were surprised at the different format and technology usage. However, most were able to easily overcome the technology usage. Yet in one school, students wanted paper/pencil to work the problems. Content was quite challenging, with many students commenting that they have not be asked to do these types of tasks by their teachers. When asked for feedback, response from one school was: *Most of the 7th grade students when asked how they liked the assessment responded favorably since, as they put it, they could write their own ideas instead of just bubbling in circles.* Also stated was: *The students in one of the 7th grade classes were well prepared for much of the ELA assessment - the types of questions were aligned to what they do in the classroom - especially those that are in the AVID elective class.* Overall students are impressed with the difficulty of the tests and struggle with the time allotment for the writing test. Students didn't seem to know how to effectively use the paper given for note taking and preparation for writing.

Transitional Kindergarten

Additional Resources available

- First 5 has proposed to provide additional funds for all Monterey County Transitional Kindergarten classrooms. MCOE will manage the funds. Teachers will be able to submit proposal for funds for reimbursement. The exact amount available for each classroom will be dependent upon the number of classrooms for the 2013-14 school year. Districts are encouraged to collect the brief survey at <http://goo.gl/QXCCJ> to assist with proposed numbers.

- Entrance date for Kindergarten for **2013-14 will be October 1, 2013.**

Calendar Review (Trainings/Events/Due Dates)

Transitional Kindergarten Task Force

- 2:30pm **today** in Room B
- Topics of discussion: Informing parents about TK, plus additional updates
- Teacher Networking opportunities begin at 3:15-4:00

CCSS Leadership Team Network Regional Meetings

- 4-6 pm at various locations throughout Monterey County
- **Participants must bring laptop or tablet as all documents and interactions will be electronic!!**
 - May 15 Soledad—Informational Text
 - May 29 MPUSD IMC—Technology: Performance Tasks

Central California Writing Project (CCWP) and CCSS

- K-5; 6-12 English; 6-12 Other Content Areas
- 2 days of training on Narrative, Informational/Explanatory, Opinions/Argument Writing
- \$150 per participant for both sessions
- Two sessions—Elementary teachers: May 17 and July 31 Secondary English teachers: May 20 and July 30; Secondary Content Area teachers: May 29 and July 29
- Please contact Cathy Cranson for more information

Rigorous Curriculum Design

- The following project was presented to the Superintendents Council and received overwhelming support. This project would provide the following
 - *Identification of priority standards and related support standards*
 - *Clustering standards into Units of Study*
 - *Developing Essential Questions and Big Ideas for each unit of study*
 - *Develop pacing calendar for units of study*
- June 10-13, 2013 with Dr. Brandon Doubeck from Doug Reeves' *Leadership and Learning Center*; July 22-25 with MCOE staff
 - 2 days for ELA and 2 days for Math
 - Follow up days with MCOE staff for continuation of work
 - Cost is \$250 for series (4 days for each content area)
- All Units of Study will be posted in central location for all districts to access
 - Sample unit will be shared during Curriculum Council meeting

Additional CCSS Training Available

- Informational Text
- Collaboration, Use of Media, and Research
- Text Complexity
- CCSS Writing
- Opinion Writing
- Discussion-Based Classrooms
- Contact Cathy Cranson for more information