Teaching and Learning

Alternative Induction Program (AIP)

The Alternative Induction Program (AIP) for recently laid off beginning teachers is up and running and the courses at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) have begun. On Tuesday, CSUS President Alex Gonzalez and Superintendent Raymond addressed one of the first classes to thank them for their participation in this exciting program. Currently, 31 teachers are enrolled in the Alternative Induction Program in SCUSD.

AIP is a collaborative project between the Bechtel Foundation, the Workforce Investment Board, SCUSD and California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). It allows recently laid off teachers who have five-year, preliminary teaching credentials to complete their induction program requirements. At the end of five years, to continue to teach in public schools, novice teachers must complete an induction program to “clear” their credential, or obtain the next credential level. The Alternative Induction Program will give these new teachers an opportunity to clear their credential by teaching a before-school or after-school class in math or science under the tutelage, and with the support of, experienced teachers in these fields of study. In addition, participating teachers will complete all the requirements of the state’s Formative Assessment for California Teachers (FACT) system.

State Legislative Staff Visits Common Core Cohort A

Fifteen members of the California Legislative Staff Education Institute visited SCUSD today to learn more about the district’s implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The team visited one of the Cohort A Common Core sessions which is comprised of grades Pre-K-12 teachers from schools across the district who meet monthly to develop interim assessments.

In today’s session, teachers were engaged in developing interim assessments focused on reading and writing informational/expository texts. The legislators began their day with a brief meeting to orient them to the SCUSD’s Common Core implementation framework and process. They then joined teachers in their table groups to observe the assessment development work in action and learn more about the process. During the lunch break, the legislators met with a small group of teachers, district training specialists and Central Office administrators who engaged in a personal experience panel to share their experiences with the district’s Common Core implementation and the impact of this experience on their work with students and teachers. Good news is spreading rapidly about the cutting-edge work our teachers are engaged in to implement the new California Common Core standards!
Earlier in the week, Cohort B met and continued to engage in the data inquiry process and in designing rigorous tasks and accompanying instructional plans.

**Operations**

*Second Bargaining Session Held with SCTA*

Representatives of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) and the district held their second bargaining session on Tuesday. Conversations focused on previous agreements and other fiscal issues. The discussion was positive and productive. The next bargaining session is scheduled for Friday, March 2.

*Sacramento Emerging Leaders Academy (SELA)*

The first cohort of the Sacramento Emerging Leaders Academy (SELA) met today for Day One of a two-day training session with Cindy Loe, former superintendent of schools in Fulton County, Georgia. Thirty-eight educators are taking part in this initial SELA program. Sacramento Emerging Leaders Academy is a result of the Sacramento High Performing Schools Compact and funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Educators identified as having the potential to be effective principals will be provided with intensive leadership training based on a research-proven curriculum.

*At-Risk After-School Supper Program*

Beginning March 1, 24 of our after-school educational and learning enrichment programs will begin serving an estimated 2,500 “supper” meals daily through the At-Risk After-School Supper Program pilot. The meal is in addition to the snack previously provided to students attending after-school programs that run as late as 6 p.m. Suppers will be served between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and the snack later.


The suppers are funded by the USDA and administered by the California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division. High-poverty schools (more than 50 percent of the students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch) are eligible. Reimbursement for at-risk after-school snacks has been available since the 1990s. However, reimbursement for at-risk after-school suppers was formerly available only in a few states. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296) expanded the availability for at-risk after-school meals to all states.

*Nutrition Services Awarded Grant*

The California Endowment is providing a one-year grant of $35,000 to SCUSD's Nutrition Services Department to increase the availability and consumption of nutritious foods to improve the
health of students in the district. Funded activities include holding two in-service trainings for Nutrition Services staff on nutrition and menu appeal; increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables; increasing participation in the national School Breakfast and Lunch program; and revising and strengthening the district-wide School Wellness Policy.

**Community Engagement**

*Play It Safe Concussion Care Consortium*

Responding to the growing concern over the short and long-term effects of sports-related concussions, SCUSD is partnering with Wells Fargo’s Student Insurance Services, Kaiser Permanente, Mercy Neurological Institute, Sutter Health and UC Davis Health System to establish the Sacramento Valley Play It Safe Concussion Care Consortium. The formation of the consortium was announced at a press conference on Tuesday at John F. Kennedy High School.

The consortium, the first of its kind in our region, aims to improve identification and management of sports-related concussions and provide student athletes with increased access to local medical professionals trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. Play It Safe, introduced by Wells Fargo last year, provides baseline neurocognitive testing and extended insurance coverage to young athletes and their families.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 20 percent of all high school players sustain concussions in any given season, and high school athletes are three times more likely to sustain a second concussion than college players. It is expected that all of our high schools with sports programs will participate in Play It Safe. So far, those that have confirmed are Luther Burbank, C.K. McClatchy, Rosemont, Hiram Johnson and Kennedy.

*Climate Walk-Through, Community Quality Review*

School, Family and Community Partnerships (SFCP) initiated Phase 4 of the Welcoming Schools Certification Process (WSCP) with this year’s first Climate Walk-Through (CWT) at Susan B. Anthony Elementary School on February 21. During the walk-through, district staff and parents toured the school campus, from the front curb to the office, with the goal of objectively rating the school’s exterior appearance, customer service, responsiveness to the cultures present at that campus and demonstration of school pride and academic achievement. Nine other campuses are participating in Welcoming Schools this spring.

Using a three-page survey with an objective rating scale, the walk-through team spent about two hours on campus, looking at everything from directional signage to student work displayed on the public walls. Principals will receive a summary report on the CWT with helpful feedback and suggestions to make the site more welcoming.

The Community Quality Review (CQR) is also part of the Welcoming Schools Certification Process (WSCP). Currently, 17 schools are going through the WSCP. The second round of follow-up training on the quality review process took place at Will C. Wood Middle School’s Parent Resource Center on February 16 and 22. The training proved to be successful in that parents and
community members responded with a strong understanding of the importance of their participation in the WSCP and demonstrated their volunteer commitment in continuing the process. At this time, 29 parents and community members have participated in the CQR training.

The Power of Know Conference

The Prism Project sponsored The Power of Know Conference on February 11 at the Charles A. Jones Business/Education Center. More than 100 youth and their parents attended the conference, which focused on ways to recognize unhealthy relationships and how to develop healthy ones. The conference also offered resources to help youths in abusive relationships or those who wish to offer help to their friends who may be in such relationships. A parent workshop focused on helping families understand teen dating violence and learning how to communicate with kids.

During the conference, scholarships were awarded to 13 students funded by the CAPITAL Foundation. These students provided community service in addition to their academic achievements. The awards range from $500 to $2,000. One recipient declined after learning she had been awarded a large scholarship from another source. She wanted CAPITAL Foundation to save money for another student.