

IMPLEMENTING AN INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK: DEFINING AND FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN ELK GROVE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 AND WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELK GROVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
9297 OFFICE PARK CIRCLE, SUITE 100
ELK GROVE, CA

MEETING AGENDA

DAY I: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

- 8:30 am **Breakfast.** Light breakfast will be available in Suite 100.
- 9:00 am **Convene Meeting.** Joel Knudson will convene the meeting with opening remarks, introductions, and an overview of the agenda. Superintendent Chris Hoffman will welcome the group to Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD).
- 10:00 am **Update from Santa Ana Unified School District.** Superintendent Jerry Almendarez will share an update on developments in his district since the Collaborative met there in May 2023.

SESSION I

Developing a Clear and Consistent Understanding of Quality Instruction

Student learning fundamentally depends on high-quality instruction. Nevertheless, many challenges stand in the way of fostering effective learning environments—variation in educator preparation programs, the multiple demands on educators’ time and attention, and the profound disruptions to teaching and learning experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, to name a few. A clear articulation of what high-quality instruction entails can help foster shared language across a school system and provide an anchor for professional learning and supports for principals and teachers alike. The meeting will begin with an exploration of efforts in EGUSD to develop and implement an instructional framework as the foundation for ongoing improvement in teaching and learning.

Session Purposes: Build participant understanding of the EGUSD context, including an orientation to the EGUSD instructional framework and the process through which it was created. Consider ways in which educators can leverage an instructional framework to pursue equity and excellence in student learning.

- 10:10 am **Overview of the EGUSD Learning System and Instructional Framework:** EGUSD district leaders will provide contextual information about EGUSD and background on the

motivation for developing an instructional framework, the process through which it was created, and the way in which it is organized.

- 10:50 am **Break.**
- 11:05 am **Small Group Exploration of the EGUSD Instructional Framework.** Participants will break into small groups to explore the four main areas of EGUSD’s Lesson Planning for Student Success: Learning Targets and Success Criteria, Active Participation, Formative Assessment and Feedback, and Student Talk.
- 11:35 am **Report Out and Full Group Discussion.** Small groups will share key takeaways from their discussions, followed by dialogue among members of the full group.
- 12:15 pm **Lunch.**

SESSION II

Developing and Supporting Principals as Instructional Leaders

As noted in prior Collaborative meetings, principals play a vital role as instructional leaders supporting teachers and promoting excellence in teaching. EGUSD district leaders have designed their framework implementation efforts to begin with training and support for site leaders. This session will examine approaches to building principal capacity in leading instructional improvement efforts, as well as some of the emerging challenges of sustaining the work over time.

Session Purposes: Explore strategies for building principal capacity to guide and support a districtwide instructional vision. Consider challenges for prioritizing the work of instructional leaders in the face of turnover and competing priorities.

- 1:00 pm **Overview of EGUSD’s Work with Principals.** EGUSD district leaders will describe their initial efforts to implement the instructional framework, including the rationale for focusing on principals and details about what those efforts entailed.
- 1:30 pm **Principal Panel.** A group of EGUSD principals will share their experiences with learning about and implementing the district’s instructional framework, deepening discussions with principals in prior meetings by emphasizing efforts to observe classroom instruction and provide feedback to teachers.
- 2:10 pm **Small Group Discussion.** Participants will break into small groups to consider ways in which districts can best support principals in advancing high-quality instruction.
- 2:30 pm **Break.**
- 2:45 pm **Report Out and Full Group Discussion.** Small groups will share key takeaways from their discussions, followed by dialogue among members of the full group.

SESSION III

Fostering High Quality Instruction in Classrooms

Educator understanding of the EGUSD framework is a prerequisite to implementing its principles effectively, but the evidence of its success will come from actual classroom practice. This session will cover initial training efforts designed to familiarize teachers with the framework and prepare them to integrate it with their classroom practice. It will also address ways in which teachers engage in discussion with site leaders to improve their instructional practice.

Session Purposes: Explore opportunities and challenges for building understanding and buy-in for shifts in instructional practice. Consider how best to engage and support teachers in the work of instructional improvement.

- 3:15 pm **Overview of the EGUSD Training Approach.** EGUSD district leaders will describe their recent efforts to introduce the instructional framework to teachers districtwide.
- 3:30 pm **Teacher Perspectives.** A combination of video and discussion will enable participants to understand the teacher experience with implementing the instructional framework.
- 4:00 pm **Full Group Discussion.** Participants will consider the conditions and supports necessary for teachers to implement high-quality instructional practices.
- 4:45 pm **Summary and Reflection on the Day's Discussion.**
- 5:00 pm **Adjourn for the Day.**
- 6:00 pm **Reception Followed by Dinner** at Sheldon Inn Restaurant & Bar.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8:30 am **Breakfast.** Light breakfast will be available in Suite 100.

SESSION IV

Supporting the Growth and Development of High-Quality Teaching Through Data Systems

This final session will explore evidence of high-quality instruction and how it can inform ongoing improvement efforts. This discussion will include approaches to developing consistency in approaches to observing instruction and using that information to inform improvement at the teacher, school, and system levels. State and federal accountability systems often promote analyses of student outcomes alone as measures of effectiveness, and such data are frequently the most readily available within districts. However, these analyses too often overlook intermediate program outputs as well as the fidelity of program implementation. To better assess the degree of implementation and its association with intended outcomes, all with the goal of improving programs, EGUSD has been developing and refining a Program Implementation Continuum (PIC). The meeting's final session will enable participants to consider the possibilities and challenges of employing data systems to inform instructional improvement districtwide.

Session Purposes: Expose participants to data systems that can enable a deeper understanding of the connections between instructional quality and key outcomes. Explore the systems and processes through which data on instructional quality can inform reflection and improvement at all levels of the system.

9:00 am **Classroom Observation as a Tool for Measuring Framework Implementation.** EGUSD representatives will provide an overview of the multiple sources of information the district uses to monitor implementation of the instructional framework. From these sources of evidence, the group will focus on the Framework Observation and Note-Taking Tool (FONT). Participants will engage in a brief training exercise to understand how to use the FONT, then use it to rate recorded segments of classroom instruction.

10:00 am **Small Group Discussion and Report Out.** Participants will meet in small groups to consider takeaways and implications about using observation tools like the FONT to capture evidence of quality instructional practice.

10:30 am **Break.**

10:45 am **Program Implementation Continuum.** Having explored one approach to monitoring instruction in detail, we will turn our attention to a broader approach to measuring implementation of key district initiatives. This interactive session will enable small groups of participants to examine data available in the PIC and consider questions about how best to use these data to inform ongoing improvement efforts.

11:45 pm **Lunch.**

12:45 pm **Next Steps for Implementation.** The meeting will conclude with an exploration of next steps, priorities, and challenges for implementing a districtwide vision for high-quality instruction.

1:45 pm **Summary and Reflection on the Day's Discussion.**

2:00 pm **Adjourn Meeting.**