Learning from California’s CLAS Experience to Inform Assessment of the Common Core

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Introducing the Brief

• Emerged from early assessment work at the district level

• Data Sources
  – Research on CLAS
  – Media accounts of CLAS
  – Interviews conducted in spring 2012
The History of CLAS

• Administered in 1993 and 1994
• Aligned to the California Frameworks
• Assessment format
  – Multiple choice items
  – Constructed response items
  – Performance tasks
The History of CLAS

• Sources of criticism
  – Controversial assessment items
  – Low student scores
  – Technical problems

• Funding for reauthorization vetoed in 1994
Introducing the Brief

• Assessment as an essential component of implementing the Common Core
• Timing: released September 2012
• 4 key lessons
Lesson 1

Implement immediate and sustained capacity-building strategies.

• Help teachers develop performance tasks and review student work
• Capitalize on existing efforts
• Demonstrate commitment
• Begin now
Lesson 2

Anticipate and respond to potential controversy surrounding assessment content and format.

• Transparency and clear messaging

• Prepare students and the public for new assessment formats
Lesson 3

Address technical and administrative challenges around assessment development, administration, and scoring.

• Anticipate and plan for technical challenges
Lesson 4

Build a constituency of support for new instructional and assessment efforts through a clear strategy of public engagement.

• Educate the public
• Expect imperfection and improvement
• Leverage teachers and leaders
• Anticipate, identify, and respond to criticism
Contact Information

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Exercise

• Group Work
  – Each group will address 1 of 4 questions

• Report Out
  – Brief comments to the full group
Questions

1. Teacher outreach and capacity building
   – What are the challenges?
   – What are potential strategies?
   – Are there tools that can help?
Questions

2. Collaboration and cross-district learning
   – Are there any existing channels?
   – What concrete steps can districts take to open and expand lines of communication and collaboration?
Questions

3. Communication and constituency building
   – What are the challenges?
   – What are the potential strategies?
   – Are there tools and/or supports that can help?
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