

THE CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE ON DISTRICT REFORM

June 16, 2010

Dear Collaborative Members and Guests,

We look forward to seeing you at our thirteenth convening of the California Collaborative on District Reform, which will be held in La Jolla on June 29th and 30th. The topic is *California and the Common Core Standards: Intersection and Direction*.

This topic is particularly timely as the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a joint endeavor of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governor's Association, released the final version of the Common Core Standards for English/language arts (ELA) and mathematics on June 2nd. This meeting will allow participants to dive into the content and organization of these standards in order to understand how they compare to California's current standards in these subjects, explore how districts might best plan for a transition to new standards, and decide whether the Collaborative should take a public stance on state adoption of the standards.

Overview of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda is located behind the first tab in this binder. We have allocated most of the first day to ELA and the second day to mathematics. We start off Tuesday with a discussion led by several Collaborative members on the overall structure and content of the Common Core standards, followed by a small group activity that will allow participants to dig into specific ELA content strands, the way they compare to the existing California standards, and their implications for district practice. Wednesday will kick off with a presentation by Jason Zimba and Phil Daro, key contributors to the Common Core mathematics standards, who will provide an overview of the content and structure of the mathematics standards. We will then break up into small groups again, this time to delve into specific math standards and to understand how they compare to the existing California standards. We will conclude both days with a discussion of how districts and the state might want to approach a transition to the new standards.

As usual, there will also be opportunities for networking and collective relaxation at the group dinner Tuesday evening.

Overview of Binder

As with prior meetings, we have provided background materials relevant to the meeting topic in this briefing binder. These materials include a general overview of why states might want to consider common standards (as well as some historical pieces framing previous attempts at common standards); copies of the final Common Core standards for ELA and math, California's current ELA and math standards, and some crosswalks examining their commonalities and differences; and, finally, some materials discussing adoption and implementation considerations for California. As with previous binders, we have selected a limited number of articles as priority reading, marked with a double asterisk (**) on the lists behind each tab.

As the main focus of this meeting is to look very carefully at the standards themselves, **we urge you to spend time looking through the standards (located in Tab #6 and Tab #7 of your binder) in order to familiarize yourselves with their overall structure, layout, and content.**

Specifically, for ELA, we suggest that you review the following materials in Tab #6:

- The Common Core's anchor college- and career-ready standards;



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- The introduction to the Common Core for ELA; and
- The introduction to California's ELA standards;

We also recommend that you peruse the actual content of the standards themselves, including:

- Some grade-level standards of your choosing in the Common Core for ELA; and
- Specific California standards in three different grades (e.g., kindergarten, 5th grade, 11th/12th grade).

For mathematics, we suggest you review the following materials found in Tab #7:

- The excerpted materials found in the first section behind the tab, which contain 3rd and 4th grade standards from both the Common Core and California;
- The introduction to the Common Core for mathematics; and
- The introduction to California's mathematics standards.

Since we will be working with these standards in small groups on both days of the meeting, we ask that you bring your binders with you to La Jolla. As always, we have included a variety of additional materials both in hard copy and on the enclosed CD for your reading pleasure. (The CD contains both the electronic versions of the included and additional related materials for further exploration and sharing.)

If you have any questions regarding the meeting logistics, please don't hesitate to contact Suzanne Claussen and the California Collaborative staff at 650.843.8192. For any other questions, you may contact me either by phone (202.262.4987) or email (joday@air.org).

Again, thanks for joining us!

Sincerely,



Jennifer O'Day, Collaborative Chair
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