

# THE CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE ON DISTRICT REFORM

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## ASSESSMENT AND TEACHER LEADERSHIP IN THE TRANSITION TO THE COMMON CORE

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 AND FRIDAY, JUNE 19  
WHITTIER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
9401 SOUTH PAINTER AVENUE  
WHITTIER, CA

### MEETING AGENDA

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#### DAY I: THURSDAY, JUNE 18

- 8:30 am      **Breakfast.** Light breakfast will be available in the board room.
- 9:00 am      **Convene Meeting.** Jennifer O'Day will convene the meeting with opening remarks, introductions, and an overview of the agenda. Sandy Thorstenson, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District (WUHSD), will welcome the group.
- 9:20 am      **Reflections from Fresno.** Mike Hanson, Superintendent of Fresno Unified School District, will share an update with the group about developments in Fresno since the Collaborative met there in March 2015.

#### SESSION I

##### *Setting the Whittier Context*

- 9:35 am      **Understanding WUHSD's History of High School Improvement.** WUHSD district leaders will provide an overview of their recent history of growth and success for students. Two components of this story are the district's approach to promoting teacher leadership through strong subject matter teams and informing instructional improvement through the development and use of common assessments. Sandy Thorstenson will provide some historical perspective that explores how these practices began and evolved over time, including the ways in which WUHSD has leveraged its existing structures to facilitate the transition to the Common Core. It will also set the context for subsequent discussions about teacher leadership and assessment practice.

#### SESSION II

##### *Assessing Progress at the Local Level in a Common Core World*

- 10:15 am      **Exploring WUHSD's Common Assessments.** Common assessments in Whittier have anchored teachers' collaborative work around instruction for many years. They have also provided a natural entry point for the district's transition to the Common Core. This session will begin with

an orientation to the assessments by WUHSD’s Loring Davies, followed by small group explorations of two of the district’s common assessments (see briefing materials). These conversations will enable participants to better understand the ways in which teachers have designed their work together, as well as to identify opportunities to strengthen the tools being used in the district’s classrooms. This session has three purposes: to learn about the elements of the WUHSD common assessments and the ways in which the district develops them, to examine what constitutes a high-quality assessment that provides useful information about student progress, and to identify the kinds of supports and tools that teachers need to develop and use these types of assessments.

**Break.** A 15-minute break will take place at approximately 10:35 during the transition between the orientation to Whittier’s common assessments and the small-group conversations.

12:30 pm **Lunch.**

### **SESSION III**

#### ***Leveraging Teachers to Lead Improvement Efforts***

1:15 pm **Learning About the Ways in Which WUHSD Teachers Lead Improvement Efforts.** Extending the morning’s conversations about the tools and supports necessary to develop quality common assessments, and building on literature from the meeting briefing materials that addresses key considerations for teacher leadership, the conversation will turn to district approaches to empowering and leveraging teachers to lead improvement efforts.

- This session will begin with an orientation from Carlye Olsen about the ways in which WUHSD teachers play an active role in guiding instruction, assessment, and student learning.
- A panel of teacher leaders will then join the group for an interactive discussion about the opportunities and supports that exist within the district. The panelists—Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment Dan Esquerra, Curriculum and Assessment Coaches Jennifer Medina and Shana Henley, and former Whittier Secondary Education Association President Randy Carruth—will also address the ways in which these structures have facilitated the district’s transition to the Common Core.

2:50 pm **Break.**

3:05 pm **Examining Teacher Leadership in Other District Contexts.** Having examined the model of teacher leadership in WUHSD, the group will expand our focus to consider approaches across a range of districts in California. Leaders from other Collaborative districts will share some of their strategies for engaging teachers in the practice of leadership, followed by a broader conversation that addresses opportunities and issues that exist across districts.

4:45 pm **Summary and Reflection on the Day’s Discussion.**

5:00 pm **Adjourn for the Day.**

6:30 pm **Reception Followed by Dinner** at Datillo Ristorante.

## DAY 2: FRIDAY, JUNE 19

8:30 am **Breakfast.** Light breakfast will be available in the board room.

9:00 am **Collaborative Updates.** We will begin the day with a brief update on current Collaborative projects in support of our members.

### SESSION IV

#### *Creating an Integrated System of Assessment in a Common Core World*

9:10 am **Reflecting on the First Smarter Balanced Assessment Administration.** District leaders will have an opportunity to share their experiences with the first administration of the state's new summative assessment, what they're seeing in their test results (if available), and how they plan to use those results. This will create an avenue for feedback from the local level to state policy makers about their Smarter Balanced (SBAC) experiences. It will also help meeting participants explore the relationship between local and state assessment, including ties between efforts like WUHSD's common assessments and the SBAC assessments that can help improve student learning opportunities.

10:10 am **Reviewing the State Summative Assessment Landscape.** The new SBAC assessments represent an important component of a broader state system of assessment. Keric Ashley of the California Department of Education will provide an overview of developments at the state level and anticipated next steps for the state-level assessment system.

10:30 am **Break.**

10:45 am **Assessing Progress in Non-SBAC Subjects and Grades.** One of the strengths of WUHSD's assessment system during the era of the Standardized Testing and Reporting program was the ability to monitor student progress not only throughout the year, but to tie that progress to outcomes on the state's summative assessment. In the current absence of state tests for non-SBAC subjects and grades, districts lack an external measure of progress. In this session, participants will explore how the leaders at the state and local levels can navigate the process of monitoring student progress in a new state context.

12:15 pm **Lunch.**

### SESSION V

#### *Identifying Next Steps for the Collaborative*

1:00 pm **Addressing the LCAP and other Key State Developments.** Districts are finalizing their Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs), their second overall and first using the state's new template. A group discussion will give participants a chance to share their experiences with the process, explore connections with other statewide developments, and identify any role(s) the Collaborative can play to support district efforts.

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

2:00 pm **Adjourn meeting.**

