

The Board of Trustees believes that, in order to maximize student learning and achievement, certificated staff members must be continuously learning and improving their skills. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a program of ongoing professional development, which includes opportunities for teachers to enhance their instructional and classroom management skills and become informed about changes in pedagogy and subject matter.

The Superintendent or designee shall involve teachers, site and District administrators, and others, as appropriate, in the development of the District's staff development program. He/she shall ensure that the District's staff development program is aligned with District priorities for student achievement, school improvement objectives, the local control and accountability plan, and other District and school plans.

The District's staff development program shall assist certificated staff in developing knowledge and skills, including, but not limited to:

1. Mastery of subject-matter knowledge, including state Common Core Standards and the California standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTPs).
2. Use of effective, subject-specific teaching methods, strategies, and skills.
3. Use of technologies to enhance instruction.
4. Sensitivity to and ability to meet the needs of diverse student populations, including but not limited to, students of various racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English learners, economically disadvantaged students, foster youth, gifted and talented students, and at-risk students.
5. Understanding of how academic and career technical instruction can be integrated and implemented to increase student learning.
6. Knowledge of strategies that encourage parents/guardians to participate fully and effectively in their children's education.
7. Effective classroom management skills and strategies for establishing a climate that promotes respect, fairness, tolerance, and discipline, including conflict resolution and hatred prevention.
8. Ability to relate to students, understand their various stages of growth and development, and motivate them to learn.
9. Ability to interpret and use data and assessment results to guide instruction.
10. Knowledge of topics related to student health, safety and welfare.
11. Knowledge of topics related to employee health, safety and security.

The Superintendent or designee shall, in conjunction with teachers, interns, and administrators, as appropriate, develop an individualized program of professional growth to increase competence, performance, and effectiveness in teaching and classroom management, and as necessary, to assist them in meeting state or federal requirements to be fully qualified for their positions.

Professional learning opportunities offered by the District shall be evaluated based on the criteria specified in Education Code 44277. Such opportunities may be part of a coherent plan that combines school activities within a school, including lesson study or co-teaching, and external learning opportunities related to academic subjects taught, provide time to meet and work with other teachers, and support instruction and student learning. Learning activities may include, but are not limited to, mentoring projects for new teachers, extra support for teachers to improve practice, and collaboration time for teachers to develop new instructional lessons, select or develop common formative assessments or analyze student data. (Education Code 44277)

The District's staff evaluation process may be used to recommend additional, individualized staff development for individual employees.

The Board of Trustees may budget funds for actual and reasonable expenses incurred by staff who participate in staff development activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a means for continual evaluation of the benefit of staff development activities to both staff and students and shall regularly report to the Board of Trustees regarding the effectiveness of the staff development program. Based on the Superintendent's report, the Board may revise the program as necessary to ensure that the staff development program supports the District's priorities for student achievement.

Board of Trustees

May 23, 1985

Reviewed: October 23, 1986

Revised: March 19, 1990

Reviewed: April, 1993

Reviewed: September, 1997

Revised: September 14, 2000

Revised: February 7, 2019

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