

**Work Group:** K-12 Education  
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**Organization:** Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute  
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### **Description of Activity by Goal and Objective**

The guidance received from the Partnership board at the Feb. 8 and April 10 meetings has significantly impacted the priorities of the work group and the direction to be taken over the next year.

### **Goal 1: Increase the achievement level of students, schools and school districts in the San Joaquin Valley.**

#### **Objective A: Implement a school and school district support system through county offices of education.**

Two work group meetings were held this quarter, Jan. 16 at Kern County Office of Education (KCOE) and January 26 at Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute (CVELI). The core of the work group comprises superintendents and staff of the eight county offices of education. We have worked this quarter on expanding the work group to incorporate others as well. Several of the county superintendents and staff were involved with presenting at the Feb. 8 Partnership board meeting and were involved with multiple meetings and conference calls to prepare for the special April 10 Board meeting. Lee Andersen met with six of the eight county superintendents at the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) conference in March.

- The Regional System of District and School Support (RSDSS), through the Madera County Office of Education, has provided support, in collaboration with four counties, to help move schools and districts off of School and District Assistance Intervention Team (SAIT and DAIT) designations.
- The county offices of education have continued to provide technical support to school sites and districts that are designated "Program Improvement."
- Developed and sent out a survey eliciting input from work group and other interested individuals regarding priorities as identified in the Governor's Commission on Education Excellence report.

**Objective B: Implement a curricular and instructional program to ensure all children are able to read at or above grade level.** The Merced County Office of Education has begun a Preschool Coordination and Alignment Project (PCAP) for the region. The purpose of the PCAP is:

- To bring together county offices of education, school districts and other stakeholders from the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley region to collect and coordinate information and expertise in preschool planning and implementation.
- To research current preschool planning projects throughout the Valley.
- To convene a regional conference, "From Local to Regional Preschool Planning," to gain input from stakeholders for designing goals and objectives that help meet the indicators already established by the Partnership's Strategic Action Proposal.

Stakeholders were contacted during the months of February and March, and continue to be contacted, to discuss this plan. Topics and dates for the regional conference are still pending. The Packard Foundation has expressed an interest in funding the regional planning process related to connecting preschool to workforce development and college and enhancing after school programs. These activities would support curricular and instructional programs for students.

**Objective C: Provide school choice, and intra-district and inter-district options consistent with state and federal law.** The K-12 Work Group in collaboration with Lozano Smith is presenting Legal Issues Workshop on School Choice and Charter Schools on May 19. The eight County Offices of Education are responsible for implementation and oversight of intra- and inter-district options within their jurisdictions. Clovis Unified is launching a Collaborative Online Charter School for high school students who are disengaged. The school has the potential to address this population (to reduce dropout rates) while enhancing digital literacy and aligning with college and career curriculum and may be a new possibility for students seeking school choice options. California Charter Schools Association is now working with the K-12 Work Group.

**Objective D: Establish an executive leadership academy to train principals of low-performing schools in "turn-around" educational and management services.** The third in a series of Executive Leadership Center seminars was conducted Jan. 17 with 26 school districts represented from six counties. Subject was "The Strategic Superintendent: Aligning and Focusing Resources to Improve Districtwide Performance Results." The work of the English Learner Leadership Academy for Superintendents' Teams continued this quarter.. As part of our continued executive education support to educational leaders in the region, we co-sponsored a Feb. 14 presentation by national school improvement

expert Dr. Mike Schmoker who spoke on “The Opportunity: From ‘Brutal Facts’ to the Best Schools We’ve Ever Had”; 65 participants represented 20 districts, five counties, two county offices of educations and two schools of education.

**Objective E: Coordinate and integrate health and human services organized around school attendance boundaries.** A model school-neighborhood service program in San Joaquin County was surveyed to assess the program’s viability as a model for the region.

**Goal 2: Develop a college-going culture in the San Joaquin Valley: Objective A: Support collaborations between school districts and the community colleges, CSU and UC Systems.**

**Objective B: Increase the rates of high school graduates completing courses for college admission.**

KCOE has taken the lead and facilitated a work group meetings as its focus. UC, CSU, and Community Colleges representatives participated as well as K-12. KCOE shared regionwide and county-specific data related to college-going in an attempt to begin identification of appropriate indicators, data problems, and baseline measures for this goal. A spin-off from that meeting was the initiation of a joint research/data group between Higher Education and K-12. With the leadership of Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC), this group met in person on Feb. 4 and again on Mar. 14. The joint group formed two subgroups: a policy and a data group, each with representatives from higher education and K-12. Representatives of CVHEC continue to attend K-12 work group meetings regularly.

KCOE reported its findings from an initial eight-county survey, taken in December 2007, which identified primary policy areas and components of critical college-going strategies. Based on the initial survey, three policy areas were identified and ratified as priorities by the county superintendents (Preparation, Articulation and Expectations). A second survey was conducted during this quarter to identify priority to System Changes, Best Practices and Key Elements to become critical elements of a work plan to enhance a college-going culture in the region. The intent is to develop a workable plan for the eight-county region to address this goal.

American College of Testing (ACT) has met with is interested in supporting the goals and objectives of the K-12 Work Group. ACT is a nonprofit organization that provides assessment, research, information and program management services in education and workforce development.

**Goal 3: Implement a computer literacy initiative for K-12 students aligned with community college curriculum.**

On March 4, the K-12 Education Work Group in association with Anytime, Anywhere Learning Foundation ([www.aalf.org](http://www.aalf.org)) hosted a Leadership Summit: Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills through One-to-One Technology. The conference was held at California State University, Fresno, with more than 65 people attending. The conference focused on the role of technology in eliminating the achievement gap. Presenters hailed from Corcoran and Fresno Unified in our Valley and as far as Pennsylvania and Australia.

Corcoran Unified continues to implement its districtwide laptop computer initiative with remarkable results and is beginning to be recognized as a model district of 1-to-1 learning. They are testing the International Computer Drivers License curriculum and testing modules. They will be presenting at a conference in Washington next quarter. Fresno Unified and County Offices of Education in Fresno and Kings counties have identified individuals to become more involved with the development of further activities in this area.

Dr. Masumoto met with the Region 7 director of the Computer Technology Area Project (CTAP7) functioning out of the Fresno County Office of Education. While CTAP7 primarily serves as a support system to counties and districts in a six-county area, they are seeking support to continue funding levels to expand into curriculum and instruction services to impact what occurs in classrooms across the region. California is rated D+ based on the 50 State Report on School Technology 2008.

Dr. Masumoto met with the Workforce Development and Advanced Communications Services work groups to assess potential for collaboration across the three groups. A tentative schedule was set for a joint meeting in May.

**Goal 4: Implement research-based programs to reduce substance abuse, including voluntary drug testing.**

**Objective A: Implement a substance abuse program.** K-12 Work Group members participated in a legislative issues forum sponsored by the Health & Human Services Work Group Methamphetamine Recovery Project on March 7 in Lemoore.

**Objective B: Coordinate and integrate health and human services organized around school attendance boundaries.** (See goal 1 E above.)

