

**PREK-12 EDUCATION WORK GROUP (PreK-12)**

Lead Organization: Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute (CVELI),  
California State University, Fresno

C = Completed  
IP = In Progress  
NP = No Progress  
W = WIA Grant

ACTIONS	STATUS		2010 1st QUARTER (Jan 1 - Mar 31)
<b>Goal 1: Increase the achievement level of students, schools and school districts in the San Joaquin Valley.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	The 2nd Annual Exemplary Practices in Education Conference was held Jan 20 with over 300 attendees from across the region. The theme was Engaging Students in Their Learning, Grades 6-16, and featured keynote speaker, Dr. Bill Daggett, a panel of exemplary district superintendents, two exemplary high schools, and Jeff Edmondson from Strive Cincinatti, a model communitywide partnership effort.
<b>Objective A: Implement a school and school district support system through county offices of education.</b>		IP	<b>Fresno County Office of Education and the State Center Consortium were co-sponsors of this event along with the PreK-12 Education Work Group. We engaged higher education through various means, including outreach through the Higher Education Work Group (Central Valley Higher Education Consortium). The County Offices of Education supported the planning and outreach for this event as a function of their commitment to the Partnership.</b>
Organize regular PreK-12 Work Group meetings involving eight county superintendents and Partnership representatives.		C	
Gather information on achievement gap.			
<b>Objective B: Implement a curricular and instructional program to ensure all children are able to read at or above grade level.</b>			This objective is a subset of the objective above; we will not focus on it as a separate objective without additional funding.
Focus all meetings, discussions, programs and services on ways to close the achievement gap in Valley schools. See program descriptions below.			<b>See above. This will relate to Exemplary Practices Conference planning, English Learners and Career Technology Education/Workforce Development.</b>
Expand the discussion to include Pre-Kindergarten in all facets of the work plan as feasible.			
Gather information about availability and quality of preschool programs in the region and conduct a conference related to preschool programs in the region			

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<b>Objective C: Provide school choice, intra-district and inter-district options consistent with state and federal law.</b>	C	Much of this work is now embedded in county offices and/or CVELI functions. Without further funding, this will no longer be a focus.
Legal issues workshops on school choice and other timely issues.		Much of this work is now embedded in county offices and/or CVELI functions. Without further funding, this will no longer be a focus.
<b>Objective D: Establish an executive leadership academy to train principals of low-performing schools in “turn-around” educational and management services.</b>	C	CVELI continues to work with eight rural school districts on student achievement; support the State Center Community College District in developing future leaders; and hosting an Executive Leadership Center for Valley Superintendents. In all of these events, we try to incorporate the goals of the Partnership.
Expand Springboard leadership development programs from 13 districts to 25 districts in the San Joaquin Valley.	C	
Expansion of Superintendent staff development from 3 counties to 8 counties.		We also offered the following program: <b><i>The Relationship of Quality School Facilities to School Achievement Feb 4, 2010</i></b> , 9am – 11am. This session was open to all Valley educational leaders planning or considering building or remodeling school facilities. The session was conducted by architects and school facilities experts with the most current information about environmental design and the impact on student learning. <b>Location:</b> Clovis North High School <b>Cost:</b> FREE, to all attendees. <b>Facilitated by:</b> Claudia Lourido-Habib, doctoral student and architecture teacher at Fresno City College. <b>Sponsored by:</b> Darden Architects. The Partnership board often mentions its concern about the wise expenditure of public education dollars. This workshop addressed that concern as part of the program focused on how to create new schools to address changing Valley educational and employment needs in outdated facilities.

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Expand Best Practice Institutes.		Exemplary Practices Conference held in January. (See explanation above). CVELI continues to work with eight rural school districts on student achievement; support the State Center Community College District in developing future leaders; and hosting an Executive Leadership Center for Valley Superintendents. CVELI has hosted a series of interactive video conferences this year with national experts Rick and Becky Dufour from Professional Learning Communities. Approximately 150 educational leaders from Lamont (Kern County) to Sierra (Fresno County) have participated in the seven-part series. In all of these events, we try to incorporate the goals of the Partnership. We are planning a two-day workshop with the DuFours for 720 participants in April.
Establishment of the Superintendents Leadership Network.		Of special interest to the Partnership board should be the recently completed Aspiring Superintendents' Academy in partnership with the Association of California School Administrators. Thanks to our business partners, we were able to offer this program at greatly reduced cost to 38 aspiring Valley superintendents nominated by their own district superintendents.
Expand and continue English Learner Leadership Academy as developed under the SEED Grant.	W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverable 2.
Lead by the Fresno County Office of Education, develop a long-range (10 year?) regional plan to address needs of English Learners	C	
<b>Objective F: Coordinate and communicate regional positions regarding state and/or federal school reform.</b>	C	
Write a resolution to accept and recommend goals defined by Governor's reform initiatives.		
Write a position "white" paper on alignment of state and federal standards.		

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<b>Goal 2: Develop a college-going culture in the San Joaquin Valley.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverables 1 and 2.
<b>Objective A: Support collaborations between school districts and the community colleges, CSU and UC systems.</b>		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverables 1 and 2.
<b>Objective B: Increase the rate of high school graduates completing courses for college admission.</b>		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverables 1 and 2.
Serve as liaison between PreK-12 Work Group and Central Valley Higher Education Consortium to help implement CVHEC action plan.		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverables 1 and 2.
Disseminate curricula and success stories developed from existing school, community college, university collaboratives.		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverables 1 and 2.
Develop a regional plan and pilot project concept proposal to enhance the college going culture.			
Align academic options for higher education with career/technology education options leading to greater post secondary opportunities for students in the region.		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverables 1 and 2.
<b>Goal 3: Implement a computer literacy initiative for K-12 students aligned with community college curriculum and/or business criteria/ workforce assessments.</b>		C	
Disseminate information on AALF programs through work group and Superintendents Leadership Network.			
As requested, develop time lines, staff development programs, and funding plans for one-to-one computing.			We organized a March conference on this topic with Apple. However it was postponed due to limited enrollment.
Identify unique and/or exemplary technology projects in the region.			Corcoran's technology facilities and programs were highlighted with site visits of the Rural Districts Network.
<b>Goal 5: Align career technical education to target industry clusters.</b>		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverable 1.
Develop and review curricula and programs that support target clusters.		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverable 1.
Disseminate curriculum and information about exemplary programs through PreK-12 Work Group, Superintendents Leadership Network and Higher Education & Workforce Development Work Group.		W	See WIA Grant report for Deliverable 1.

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<del>Goal 6: Develop a regional "Contract for Kids" concept.</del>		Discontinued (no funding)
Identify resources to incorporate into development of a regional "Contract for Kids."		Discontinued (no funding)
Draft a regional "Contract for Kids."		Discontinued (no funding)
<b>Goal 7: Examine data systems to meet needs of districts and higher education institutions in the region to enhance data collection, transference of information across institutions and more adequately monitor PreK-16 student achievement/progress.</b>		<b>The expansion of Cal-PASS is under way throughout the region. This data system is an important link between K-12 and higher education.</b>
Identify data needs of PreK-12 and higher education institutions that are not adequately being met.		Discontinued (no funding)
Develop a plan to access and implement a data collection system to better meet needs of educational institutions at all levels in the region.		<b>CVELI received a planning grant which allowed them to bring Strive Cincinnati to Fresno to present at the Exemplary Practices Conference; to the Fresno Compact; and a group of Fresno area leaders. The purpose of this effort was to explore the feasibility of developing a similar "cradle to career" school and community partnership to enhance academic achievement and student/family support systems. The Fresno Compact has embraced the concept and will continue to work with the University and the Fresno area school districts (Fresno, Clovis and Central) to more fully develop the model here. Common data sets and indicators are the foundation of this model.</b>

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<p><b>Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback encountered during the quarter</b></p>		<p>We have continued communications with Larry Powell, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, who is our primary liaison with the county offices. Mr. Powell has done us a service by agreeing to communicate with the other county superintendents regarding our progress. The original concept of the eight county superintendents directing the work proved to be inefficient and unsupportable. We have not reconvened the work group due to the fact that five of our eight county superintendents have indicated that they will not be running for re-election this year and have limited staffing to allocate to projects. Additionally, the fiscal crisis in the state has significantly impacted schools, districts and county offices everywhere, thus leaving time and resources extremely limited for activities beyond the primary purpose of the entity. These factors will result certain changes in education in the near future.</p>
<p><b>New funds leveraged during the quarter.</b></p>		<p>CVELI has and is co-writing several grant proposals for federal funding through the various new programs available and will be eager to hear results when available. We were also fortunate to receive some funds from the Provost to continue the work of the rural network. State Center Consortium and Fresno County Office of Education continue to be strong partners and have promised support for next year's Exemplary Practices Conference. Hopefully, the Partnership will gain funding in the future to help support these efforts. In the interim, we will continue to include their objectives in our program offerings.</p>

**TRANSPORTATION WORK GROUP (TRANS)**

Lead Organization: Central Valley Councils of Government

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ACTIONS	STATUS		2010 1st QUARTER (Jan 1 - Mar 31)
<b>Goal 1: Implement a universally accepted Route 99 Corridor Master Plan (Enhancement and Business Plan Elements) for the 274-mile section within the San Joaquin Valley as a leading economic development strategy.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	
<b>Objective A: Improve Highway 99 to freeway standards to increase safety.</b>			
Promote adoption of resolutions supporting the Master Plan for Route 99, by counties and cities along the Highway 99 corridor.		IP	San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council has endorsed the SR 99 Master Plan; individual Councils of Government (COGs) also have acted on the Business Plan.
Work with Caltrans and the Council of Governments (COGs) to work toward implementation schedule for projects and additional funding.		IP	San Joaquin Valley COGs are working with Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 to identify potential cost savings from Proposition 1B projects on SR 99; selected new projects are scheduled to be presented to the California Transportation Commission in June 2010.
<b>Objective B: Increase Highway 99 capacity which will result in improved mobility and reduced congestion while protecting environmental resources and fostering economic vitality.</b>			
Work with Caltrans on progress of interstate negotiation.			Regional Policy Council has taken a position of not pursuing Interstate designation for SR 99.
Monitor development of report on funding needs and financing approaches for Master Plan implementation.			See response to Objective 1A above
<b>Objective C: Create a San Joaquin Valley Route 99 Corridor identity.</b>			
Provide oversight, input and act a catalyst to move forward recommendations.			No action has been taken on Objective C
<b>Objective D: Build an ongoing coalition of civic leaders to support improvements to the Highway 99 corridor.</b>			
Convene working sessions of Highway 99 Master Plan Advisory Committee to support Master Plan implementation.			See response to Objective 1A above
Provide educational opportunities for elected officials and staff on benefits of corridor-adjacent land use policies.			Regional Policy Council will hold its annual conference in Modesto in fall 2010.
<b>Goal 2: Improve safety and capacity of vital east-west corridors. (Assumes timing of Blueprint work is conducive to proposed action items according to the schedule outlined in the Partnership Strategic Action Plan)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		