

Dates of Activity: April 2008 through June 2008
Seed Grant: English Language Learner Leadership Academy
Grantee Organization: Fresno County Office of Education
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Description of Activity by Goal and Objective

Cohort I Academy Session 10: September 23, 2008

1. To conclude Cohort I by reviewing 2007-2008 achievement data, English Language Learner Leadership Academy (EL Academy) survey results, celebrating gains and progress, and charting a new course of continued improvement.

Data Debrief:

Current achievement data for English Learner (EL) students in the San Joaquin Valley was highlighted. Each district/school in attendance shared the results of CST, CAHSEE, and CEDLT for each of their students as well as the best practice strategies they had implemented in 2007-2008 or plan to implement in 2008-2009. Results of the EL Academy survey were also shared.

Goals revisited included:

Expected Outcome #4

Participants will gain knowledge of factors that influence proficiency in EL students including cultural and environmental factors which will help them design effective instructional support systems.

Expected Outcome #5

Participants will understand the importance of using data to measure and assess progress of students acquiring English and at the same time learning academic content in a variety of settings and will create a culture of data collection and analysis to validate the effectiveness of the instructional program and to guide adjustments in program delivery.

Expected Outcome #9

Participants will be able to develop systems for identifying struggling students and design research-based intervention programs, allowing more students to participate in grade level instruction.

Expected Outcome #10

Participants will report an increase in their effectiveness as leaders.

Expected Outcome #11

Participants will report an increase in their willingness to share their knowledge and experience with other administrators, creating a ground swell of schools believing improved test scores for EL students is possible.

Expected Outcome #12

Test scores among English Learners will improve by August 2008 compared to STAR results from August 2007.

Recognition Dinner

Presentation of participation certificates to EL Academy member

Cohort II Academy Session One: September 23, 2008

1. To begin the journey of Cohort II as they commit to improve and accelerate the learning of EL students in their schools and districts.

Expected Outcome #4

Participants will gain knowledge of factors that influence English proficiency including cultural and environmental factors which will help them design effective instructional and support programs

Expected Outcome #8

Participants will be able to analyze the nature of their EL populations and understand that not all EL students are at the same level either academically or in acquiring English, enabling them to create master schedules more effectively.

Content of Session I

This session emphasized a closer look at EL students with an emphasis on factors beyond language that influence learning. Statistics from the San Joaquin Valley, a compilation of EL data, educational typologies, and the video, "The New Americans," gave participants an in-depth look into EL students.

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

October 23, 2008 Cohort II Session 2
December 2008 Cohort II Session 3 (Modesto, May 6; Visalia, May 7)

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

1. Current budget delays made it difficult for districts and schools to make decisions about professional development plans.
2. Sustaining the intent and commitment of the Partnership throughout the eight counties.
3. Participant districts/schools are similar in percent of EL students and levels of socio-economic populations but vary drastically in type—urban/rural, size, availability of resources, and number of and experience of administrators.
4. Developing knowledge as well as the leadership skills necessary to transform existing programs is our major focus.
5. Providing current, meaningful, and applicable content to ensure relevance.
6. Encouraging districts/schools to move to action, develop non-negotiables, implement change, and ensure fidelity of existing programs, practices, and expectations; stressing how imperative it is to monitor for results

If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.

Presenters at the Academy will include partnerships with and outreach to:

- California State University, Fresno
- Fresno County Office of Education
- Best Practice Schools and Districts