

Written Responses to the Local Control Accountability Plan
Questions and Comments from the
District English Learner Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Question/Comment

Parent Surveys: 929 parents responded to the District Local Control Accountability Plan survey. Only 111 responses were completed in Spanish. A question was raised that because the responses were predominantly from English speakers, it is difficult to know who exactly responded that 75% of parents felt English Learners had adequate resources. Although only 111 respondents completed a survey in Spanish, 133 respondents indicated that their child(ren) receive English Language Learner Services. Of those 133 respondents, 75 percent indicated that they felt English Learners had adequate resources.

Question

What does new curriculum for English Language Development mean? The English Language Arts/English Language Development curriculum that is recommended for adoption is a combined program. It includes both a standards based English Language Arts Curriculum as well as a standards based English Language Development curriculum and both are aligned with each other. The District will provide additional professional development on strategies to effectively teach content to English Learners.

Question

Add more support for the Dual Immersion Program – What does that mean? Mistral Elementary School is the home of the District's Spanish/English Dual Immersion Program. There is a considerable amount of research about the benefits of dual immersion programs and its impact on English language learners. Considering that this is the first year that Mistral has been its own school. The District wants to better support the staff and students at Mistral. As a first step, the District wants to support Mistral with professional development and supplemental materials for their new instructional materials in English Language Arts, Spanish Language Arts, English Language Development, Spanish Language Development and mathematics.

Question

Graduate Profile: Will the district have something like this for 5th graders? Right now it's just for 8th graders. Right now the goal is to have all students work toward being able to demonstrate their progress toward and then achievement of the skills in the Graduate Profile. The District will be developing Capstone Projects for both 5th and 8th grade for this purpose.

Question

Culturally Responsive Education: How do you do this? Can we add students and parents to this initiative? Where I used to work the company used to offer workshops to employees to understand diversity. During the 2016-17 school year the District will be

investigating different options for implementing this action for District staff. Based on feedback received actions will be added in years 2 and 3 for including students and parents as well.

Questions/Comments - Middle School Electives

What's the purpose of having electives in middle school? Electives provide classes other than "academics" that students might be interested in or don't have access to at home like computer science, robotics, band, journalism etc.

How do all students get electives? Students in grades 5, 6, and 7 all get an elective form with choices at the end of their school year. Students rank their elective choices and return the forms. Then the middle schools look at each student's required classes and add electives to their schedules as appropriate.

The parents are concerned that their kids don't get to take electives because they haven't reclassified. This is an issue. State and Federal law require us to provide English Language Development for all students who haven't reclassified. Additionally, we also have a 90 minute math period (2 periods of math) for each middle school student. That is why the District is going to be working to develop new middle school schedules for implementation in the 2017-18 school year that are equitable for all students.

If it enriches the students, then why shouldn't students who haven't been reclassified get them too? Psychologically kids feel that they're not good enough when they can't take an elective. The District is mandated to provide English Language Development classes to English Learners. The district has amended the process for reclassification, will be investing considerable resources into English language development through professional development, curriculum and response to intervention programs. Finally we plan on embarking on a study of the middle school schedule to assist with offering electives at middle school.

Will these electives be for all of the students? Yes, for all middle school students. Elementary school students don't miss anything due to English Language Development classes. **Can we make sure that the English Language Development teachers are good? We have heard so many things that the (ELD) teacher isn't interested, there are too many kids in the room at different levels.** In order to better support the English Language Development teachers we are providing additional professional development and coaching support.

Question

Parent University: Can we make the classes for parents mandatory? The Parent University is a series of workshops designed to address interests, issues or concerns of parents with children of all ages, backgrounds, and educational status. We cannot make the programs mandatory, but will advertise them widely and ask our School and Community Engagement Facilitators to work to enroll as many parents as possible for the appropriate classes.

Question

Can classes be added for parents about the High School A-G requirements?

Yes, one of the classes offered as part of the Parent University next year will be on Navigating the School System - College Readiness. This will include a section on the A-G requirements. We hope to expand our offerings each year.

Question

Can Health Education be added at the beginning of the school year with a focus on drugs and alcohol awareness? Next year, the District will continue its pilot of new Health Curriculum in 5th and 8th grade. The curriculum will be delivered over the course of the school year. After the pilot we can then work to make adjustments.

Question

Can the schools assign students access to Rosetta Stone instead of the District?

The District purchases licenses for Rosetta Stone for all students who are new to the United States and are learning English. Once Newcomers enroll in our schools, the District works with the schools to provide the student with a tablet with specialized applications and Rosetta Stone. Schools can purchase additional licenses for their schools and assign them as needed.

Question

Regarding the Task Force for English Learners and Special Education Students, how many people are on the Task Force and how many Board members? There will be approximately 30 members on the Task Force. Board members have been invited as well.

Question

Art, Music, PE: Isn't this part of the Mountain View Educational Foundation (MVEF)?

MVEF supports some of the District's Art and Music program and the District also contributes as well.

Comment:

Please make sure the new materials that the District adopts are excellent and professional. The District takes the process for the adoption of new instructional materials very seriously. As a District we spend time researching materials, learning from professionals, and piloting them in classrooms before adopting them for use in all classrooms.

Question

Can the District have a special coach in reading who understands the challenges faced by students who are learning English as a second language? This is something the

District can consider for the 2017-18 school year. In the 2016-17 school year the District will have a district wide coordinator for English Language Learners, one instructional coach for each elementary school, and the two middle schools will share 3 instructional coaches - a literacy coach, a math coach, and a science coach. All will have special training in how to support students in learning English as a second language.

Question

Can schools have all principals give inspirational messages to students at their weekly assemblies? We can ask our principals to add inspirational messages during appropriate times during a school day or week.