

# February 2010 ES Meeting Compilation

(A compilation of questions and answers from the all ES meeting this month)

## **ES Specific Info:**

Quizzes: Is there a History Curriculum quiz we were supposed to take?

*Not in ES Webfiles.*

EL Certification: Will this certification be required for all of us?

*Yes, my sources at the Charter School conference (CDE; CCTC) recently attended state that it is required now for all public school teachers in CA beginning in Fall 2010. (All other CA public schools required it beginning with the 2009 school year.)*

Will school funds cover the courses?

*OGCS still has grant funding to pay for this (first come/first serve)--contact Mary Ann Shapiro. SSCS is out of grant monies, and therefore you are now on your own.*

How do we challenge the CTEL tests without taking a class?

*There are 3 ways to complete the CTEL requirement for your EL certification: test only, class only, hybrid class + test. You will need to contact the school/business offering this certification to check out your options. Be sure the route you choose will conclude with a CCTC EL Certificate.*

Any news on a science VPSS being made available soon?

*Email Lisa or Mary Ann and Linette Harris to get on their list for information as it becomes available.*

FRED Dictionary: If we check spelling in Word, is it necessary to get rid of the red underlining in FRED?

Is this an issue for the auditors?

*No, that is not an issue. Just be sure you know the words are spelled correctly.*

ESs feel that if we are "better" dressed than our parents, might that be too intimidating for some of them?

*That is professional dress. Dress "one step up" from your families. You do not need to dress in any way intimidating, though, but this shows them respect and that you take your service to them seriously.*

Why don't we have maternity or medical emergency leave?

*We do not qualify for this based on the requirements for these leaves in CA law.*

Could other ESs be used as temporary substitutes on a volunteer basis?

*We do hope that you will choose to share the load with your fellow local group members and help each other out on a volunteer basis as you have short term needs in your group. Also let your Advisor know if this will be the case.*

Will there be an ES discretionary fund this year?

*No. Due to the state delaying the final 2010 school year payment to schools until Fall 2011, cash flow is an issue for most schools. Therefore, we must limit our end of year payment commitments to those most critical to pay at this time.*

Graduation Ceremonies: If a family is undecided about participating, how would you like it marked in FRED?

*Do mark it a yes so we plan on them. It is better for them to be expected and not show up, than to NOT be expected and show up.*

Do new teachers need to complete the ES self evaluation?

Contact your advisor if you are in doubt about your status.

The group felt that "Meets ES Expectations" was the same as a "C" and that Consistently Superior was an "A+".

Please use our grading code for the ES Evaluations, and do not try to equate it to any other grading scale, or create one of your own. "Meets ES Expectations" is a good solid ES response and is what we expect all of our ESs to be doing. The higher rating level is only for those areas where you are outstanding and over and above the performance level of the typical great ES in that area.

### **Educational Info (POs, Curriculum, Vendors, LRs, etc )**

When are SA for 2011 due?

Either a drop or a 2011 ES must be submitted for all of your assigned students prior to ES Checkout.

Is there a recommended supplement for Teaching Textbooks since it does not cover all standards?

The Scantron study guides would be the easiest and most accessible for all ESs to print out based on missing standards. I also recommend that each ES attempt to have in their materials supply a copy of the Holt CA Edition Math Teacher One Stop Planner for each course grades 6, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Then if they need a worksheet to fill a hole in their other programs, they can print worksheets from their Holt math course from the Teacher One Stop Planner CD-ROM. Holt provides a tutorial CD-ROM with a teacher at the whiteboard giving visual and audio instruction for EVERY lesson in the textbook. I highly recommend ESs purchase this as well and have on hand for their students. Holt California Edition Teacher's One Stop Planner CD-ROM (Contains all worksheets and answers to the Chapter Resource Files, ExamView test generator, calendar planner, lesson planner, PuzzlePro, and Quiz Show).

Some of us have done the Learning Styles assignments but keep getting a signal that 2 more assignments are due but can't find them anywhere. Please help?

Please contact your advisor if you need help with this.

Do we need a Life Skills portfolio sample?

For almost every student, the answer will be yes. If in doubt, ask your advisor.

Do K-8 students need a sample from each of the 5 core areas? Or from any 5 areas?

K-8th grade students need a sample from **every** growth area that had LR info listed over the course of the semester. Remember, the portfolio samples **SHOW** an assignment that you listed in the LRs.

### **Assessment Info (Scantron, Writing assignment, state assessments, etc):**

Are all days/times/sites chosen for ALL STAR sites yet?

Yes. Check the website assessment info.

Those who had a "1" next to their name on the proctor duty chart would like clarification about which of the days they will be working so that they can make arrangements right away on their work calendars.

Please contact your Site Coordinator for when specifically you will be needed.

Is it acceptable to cut and paste the STAR info to send only the information needed by each family for their student's grade level?

Yes.

Will there be transportation available for the STAR writing test?

Contact your ED Liaison for this help.

Where in FRED should we enter information about students testing at a different site or at a make-up session: in the "Concerns" box or in the "ES call" blue box?

*In the ES call box.*

Can a student just waive the writing portion of the STAR exam with a waiver?

*No. If they didn't take the writing portion, their STAR score is docked, but they need to attend the rest of the STAR assessments. Do not do a waiver for one portion of an assessment!*

### **Guidance Info:**

Bridges: Could you please post the Student/Parent password in FRED?

*It is listed in ES Webfiles/ES Detail Passwords tab.*

Maximum credits: It says a student MAY take 40 credits in one semester IF the ES collects EVERY sample of work. Is this correct?

*No. You should be collecting enough work to support your grades/credits to save for 4 years after your student has left our school to be used by you as needed. If in a rare unusual circumstance in which a student is approved to attempt over 40 credits (41 or 42), then ALL work must be collected.*

High School: May we turn down HS students?

*No. As a public school, we must accept all students that choose to come to our school. Our teachers with space must serve students assigned to them. We do wish to assign students to a teacher who will serve them best, but at this time of the year when we are not hiring any more new teachers for this school year, an ES with space may need to serve a student outside of their normal grade level/geographic area for a couple months. Our school is Parent choice, not ES choice (although we do accommodate our ESS whenever possible). We need to enroll all students who come to us if we have an open "space".*

If an IEP has provisions for an "extended year," will they be eligible for summer school even if they do not meet the criteria in the agenda?

*Please contact the office directly about this specific situation. This is probably referring to Special ed services provided through their IEP, and not regular ed summer school.*

If a student is behind in History credits, but not English/Math, can they take Summer School?

*Yes, if they are in a "gray" grade level designation, or a 12th grader who only needs to complete history to graduate.*

If students cannot graduate during the summer, why are we asked about them?

*We do not officially "graduate" students after summer school, but some students leave our school after summer school. They receive their diploma with a December graduation date, but we need to have everything done for them prior to their last date with us--which might be a summer school date.*

### **Parent Specific Info:**

Special Ed: Is there written documentation that ES's can refer to so they can let parents know that something is a ruling from the state and not just the school?

*It is best for you, as the regular Ed ES, to just inform your parents that there are numerous Federal and State laws that the Special Ed department must comply with. For any specifics, they may ask the special ed office for that specific legal citation. It is not your job to learn all of the special ed legal issues....just to follow the IEP as written.*

Could parents have access to all of the WebEx's on curriculum?

*A parent Webex is posted on every topic typically the month after that topic is trained in your ES Monthly agenda. Their parent specific Webex is posted on their parent WebPages.*