



Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment District Newsletter

Free SEI and Moderate Disabilities PDP Offerings SY 2016-2017

During SY 2015-2016 the District partnered with AIC to offer a 30-hour workshop for district teachers. Participants were able to obtain their 15 PDPs in SEI and 15 PDPs in Moderate Disabilities at no cost. The feedback from this course was overwhelmingly positive from the 20 participants from ELPS. While the District would love to offer the exact course again **it is costly and only allows for a total of 20 ELPS participants**. Therefore, an alternative plan has been developed.

Partnering with Westfield State University, during the 2016-17 school year **ELPS will offer 2 online courses in SEI and Moderate Disabilities. These courses are FREE for ELPS staff! There is no limit to the number of participants and the courses are self-paced! Registration information will be shared in August of 2016.**

The Course descriptions are as follows...

Course Title: Instructional Strategies for Exceptional Learners (15 hour PDP)

Course Description: The purpose of this self-paced online course is to present evidence-based classroom strategies for modifying instruction and behavior management to meet the unique learning needs of students with disabilities.

Readings, module content, and online activities will describe specific teaching strategies to facilitate and support student progress.

Specific instructional strategies matched to annual goals in a student's Individual Education Plan will be addressed: including modifications to classroom routines and organization, accommodations, and general/special education collaboration.

Course Title: Understanding Diversity and Cultural Competency to Support ELL students in the Schools (15 hour PDP)

Course Description: This self-paced online course is intended to satisfy the 15 PDPs needed for license renewal for non-core professional educators: School nurses, school social workers, and school counselors.

It will present an overview of regulations, terminology, diversity and cultural competency, along with strategies for teaching and working with ELLs.

I am taking the RETELL course. Do I need to earn 15 PDPs in SEI?

No. If you have or are taking the RETELL course to earn SEI Endorsement during your current licensure cycle (5 year re-licensing cycle), then the state will waive the 15 PDPs in SEI for this cycle.

I am taking the RETELL course. Do I need to earn 15 PDPs in Moderate Disabilities?

Yes.

I'm not a "core academic teacher". Do I need to earn 15 PDPs in SEI and an additional 15 PDPs in Moderate Disabilities?

Yes. All professionally licensed educators in Massachusetts are required to earn 15 PDPs in SEI and 15 PDPs in Moderate Disabilities

SEI Endorsement & RETELL Course Updates

Over the past two school years 56 ELPS staff have completed the DESE requirements for SEI endorsement. The majority of these staff completed the required RETELL course while others successfully completed the MTEL for SEI. Currently 20 staff members are enrolled in the spring RETELL course and will receive their SEI endorsement upon successful completion of the course bringing the **total number of SEI endorsed staff to 76 by the Fall of 2016. Congratulations to them all!**

This is the last year that the RETELL course will be offered for free. Per state licensure requirements, any educator not holding an SEI endorsement who is assigned an ELL student will have 1 calendar year to earn their endorsement and keep their teaching license in good standing with the state. There are 2 options for earning SEI endorsement: 1. Successful completion of the RETELL course or 2. Passing the SEI MTEL test. RETELL courses will be offered throughout the state through approved state vendors at a cost to the participant. Please contact Valerie Annear (Valerie.Annear@eastlongmeadowma.gov) if you have questions or need further information regarding this state requirement.

ELPS Completed the Common Assessment Pilot!

The following ELPS Educators informed the District's decision Pilot Partners

Peter Van Buren	Kelly Mazza	Jeff Dunn	Linda Kelly	Joann Tamasy	Sonny Cirincione
Denise Gauthier	Joanne Casey	J.P. Kiernan	Nikki Mushenko	Barb Selvey	Dawn Quercia
Diane Lussier	Wendy Lee	Sue Hucul	John Wiedersheim	Barbara Sandman	Amieland Singh
Diane Lussier	Ann Zito	Sheila Commisso	Catherine Hogan	Steven Pearson	Kim Turnberg
Carol Forward	Judy Lavin	Janet Bianchine	Kris Rueger	Eileen Driscoll	Charlene LaChapelle
Cathie Morsch	Barbara Spear	Heather Brown	Bill Phelan	Colleen Ferri	Leigh Plahna
Mary Jo Renear	Jennifer Faulkner	Jeff Dunn	Michelle Bongiovanni	Tim Gerry	Kris Nordin

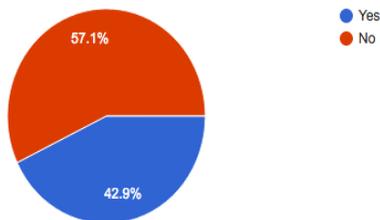
CAS Selection Committee Members

Bruce Goldman	Elaine Santaniello
Gina Flanagan	Heather Brown
Joann Tamasy	Leif Flory
Lisa Dakin	Susan Hucul
Tim Allen	Valerie Annear
Elie Gonzalez	Gordon Smith

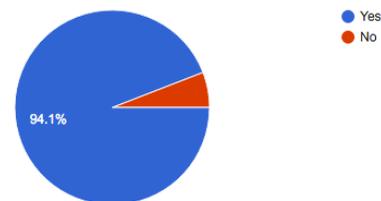
Common Assessment Pilot Results

This year approximately 40 staff members piloted two Common Assessment Systems to inform the District's decision for system implementation beginning SY 2016-2017. Pilot partners evaluated the use of each system: Illuminate Ed and Mastery Connect. Throughout the pilot timeframe pilot partners completed 3 surveys individually as well as a "plus-delta" feedback form sharing what worked well and what was challenging for each system. The Common Assessment System Selection Committee (a 12 person committee comprised of teachers and administrators representing all five schools) reviewed this information and formed a recommendation for the Superintendent. Below are some of the results from the third and final survey and the Committee's recommendation.

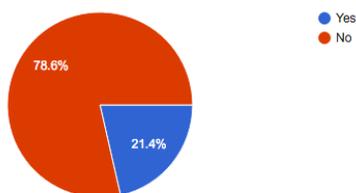
Is the Illuminate Ed system user friendly? (14 responses)



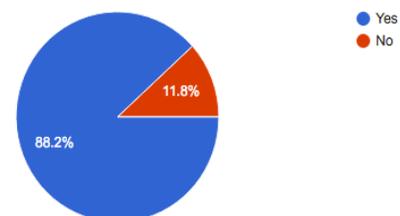
Is the Mastery Connect system user friendly? (17 responses)



I would recommend that Illuminate Ed be selected as our Common Assessment Data System for the District (14 responses)



I would recommend that Mastery Connect be selected as our Common Assessment Data System for the District. (17 responses)



After reviewing all the data submitted, including individual comments, the Common Assessment System Selection Committee unanimously recommended that the District select Mastery Connect as its Common Assessment System. **This system was determined to best support the District's goal of using Formative Assessment for instructional planning.**

Mastery Connect Professional Development Plan

The District will be posting for the following teacher leadership positions to support implementation of Mastery Connect.

1. **Mastery Connect Curriculum Mapping Team**
 - a. The Team will receive 2 days of PD (June 7-8) in how to develop curriculum trackers and upload District assessments into the trackers. Then the Team will spend 10 hours, over the summer, creating initial trackers for all content areas. The goal= To provide all teachers with initial curriculum trackers that are ready to use prior to staff training.

2. **Mastery Connect Staff Trainers- Train the Trainer Model**
 - a. Two staff members from each school will be hired as trainers, for a total of 10 ELPS Mastery Connect trainers. These trainers will attend 2 days of PD during the week of August 22, 2016 to learn Mastery Connect. Trainers will then work with their building principals to develop & deliver 5 hours of PD specific to the use of Mastery Connect to all staff.

Both of these teacher leadership positions are compensated positions. Official postings will be available within the next few days.

To learn more about Mastery Connect please view this short introductory video <https://vimeo.com/120473380>

Full implementation plans and FAQs for the use of Mastery Connect will be developed and posted to the District Website and sent directly to staff as they become available. If you have any questions about Mastery Connect please contact Valerie Annear.