

ARTICLE IX-B

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1.0 Purpose and Goals: Regular professional development and training is essential to the competence and overall effectiveness of all teachers and support personnel, no matter how experienced they may be. Participation in such continued learning is a required professional duty and part of each teacher's basic personal obligation to the profession and to the students of the District. At its best, professional development and continued learning is grounded in the instructional goals and programs of the District and the school, the best practices of successful teachers, and the everyday needs of students and teachers. While no professional development program will accomplish all goals for all participants, it is agreed that all professional development programs and activities -- whether designed and/or delivered by the Central District, a Local District, or the local school -- should seek to achieve the following goals, as applicable:

- a. Be grounded in, or consistent with, the California Standards for the Teaching Profession, and with any applicable State and District mandates, standards, initiatives and/or priorities;
- b. Be appropriately responsive to the site's needs assessment and/or evaluations of similar programs offered in the past;
- c. Deepen and broaden knowledge of subject matter and instructional content; as appropriate, be job-specific and differentiated to meet different experience levels, and designed for cumulative and sustained impact;
- d. Provide a strong foundation in the pedagogy of particular disciplines, assignments and instructional programs, knowledge about the teaching and learning processes, and improvement of the environment for student learning;
- e. Provide knowledge of applicable standards, the differences between standards-based instruction and other forms of instruction, and how to know when students are meeting or progressing toward a given standard;
- f. Be intellectually engaging and reflect the complexity of the teaching and learning processes; and
- g. Encourage and enable teachers to work together to provide consistent instruction and reinforce student progress.
- h. Provide educators access to high-quality PD regarding culturally responsive curriculum.

Article IX-B – Professional Development

i. Provide educators PD on providing students with disabilities access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

j. Provide staff assigned to multiple sites and non-classroom staff with PD that is relevant to their assignments.

2.0 Banked Time for Professional Development: See Article IX, Section 3.1, for the minimum on-site obligations relating to the banked time accumulation and schedule. The following terms are intended to facilitate professional development in grades UTK-12:

a. Professional development “banked” time programs and activities shall be scheduled for Tuesdays throughout the District;

b. In elementary schools, grades UTK-5/6, such time shall total in the range of 2,100 – 2,340 yearly minutes and shall be accumulated by increasing instructional time by twelve to thirteen (12-13) minutes per day in accordance with the number of designated Tuesdays at 180-day schools. Students will be dismissed 60 minutes earlier than normal dismissal time on all Tuesdays designated by the District (typically 35 - 39 Tuesdays), facilitating the use of the banked time for professional development purposes on those days;

c. In secondary schools, grades 6/7-12, such time shall total in the range of 2,100 – 2,300 yearly minutes and shall be accumulated by increasing instructional time by twelve to thirteen (12-13) minutes per day in accordance with the number of designated Tuesdays at 180-day schools. Students will be dismissed 60 minutes earlier than normal dismissal time on all Tuesdays designated by the District (typically 35 - 39 Tuesdays), facilitating the use of the banked time for professional development purposes on those days;

d. The required number of yearly instructional minutes remains the same as without banked time, and there are no changes in the length of the teacher’s minimum daily on-site obligation;

e. Minimum and shortened days are scheduled and used separately from this banked professional development time, and the two are not to be combined;

f. Faculty meetings (see Article IX, Section 4.3) are not to be conducted on banked professional development time; and professional development meetings on banked time do not count toward the permitted number of meetings under Article IX, Section 4.3; however, if PD extends beyond the regularly scheduled banked time, that time shall be deducted from the next scheduled faculty meeting.

g. One-half of the annual total of banked professional development time shall be dedicated to programs or activities (including

Article IX-B – Professional Development

teachers working with one another and with site administrators to improve instruction) which are determined at the school site by the Local School Leadership Council (LSLC) pursuant to Article XXVII, Section 2.4. If the banked time professional development as noted above is school determined and intended for teacher planning, the LSLC will determine the protocol for evidence of participation and planning in alignment with the instructional initiatives outlined in section 1.0 of this Article. Any such program or activity, including transportation, must be cost neutral to the District. The other half of annual banked professional development time shall be dedicated to programs and/or activities determined by the District, acting through the site administrator, the Local District or the Central office.

3.0 Professional Development Advisory Committee: In order to ensure effective input from UTLA and certificated staff in the development and implementation of the District's staff development programs, there shall be formed a Professional Development Advisory Committee (PDAC). The PDAC shall meet at least once a month to review, discuss and provide recommendations to the Superintendent or designee regarding the development and implementation of the District's professional development programs. The PDAC composition and responsibilities shall be as follows:

a. Each party may appoint up to eight (8) members to the PDAC for the purpose of representing each local district. In addition, there shall be one member designated by the Superintendent and one designated by the UTLA President. The Superintendent's designee shall serve as Chair of the Committee.

b. The Committee shall have the following responsibilities in its role as advisor to the Superintendent or designee:

- (i) Review, evaluate and provide recommendations concerning any current or proposed District-initiated professional development programs and activities;
- (ii) Propose the initiation of new professional development programs and activities, including but not limited to the organization of working committees for that purpose; and
- (iii) Review and provide recommendations concerning the professional development calendar for the year.
- (iv) Review and provide recommendations with respect to potential use of categorical resources to fund training and/or reimburse teachers for costs associated with securing of Verification Process for Special Settings (VPSS) certification under the requirements of the No Child Left Behind statute.
- (v) Review and provide recommendations concerning the professional development aspects of the Instructional Coaching program, including matters such as

Article IX-B – Professional Development

Instructional Coach training, utilization, and program evaluation.

c. In addition to the foregoing, the function, purpose and immediate task of the PDAC shall include designing a collaborative structure for the delivery of effective professional development to include the following concepts:

- (i) Professional development shall be grounded in data and the instructional goals, pedagogy and programs of the District and the school.
- (ii) The PDAC shall develop and compile information regarding best practices and successful models for the delivery of professional development programs irrespective of content.
- (iii) The PDAC shall develop and compile procedures and instruments for the assessment of professional development programs, including for individual programs and annual evaluation of such programs.
- (iv) The information, procedures and instruments referred to above are intended to assist schools with delivering effective professional development according to research and evidence-based practices that will be most effective for each school and will enhance student achievement.

d. The PDAC shall agree on the maximum number of UTLA and District representatives for Local District Professional Development Advisory Committees (LDPDACs). The purpose and function of the LDPDAC shall be to provide recommendations regarding the following:

- (i) In collaboration with the local district leadership team, provide assistance, resources, suggestions and support to their local schools in making the most effective data based professional development decisions.
- (ii) Evaluate data and assessments of professional development and use this information to make recommendations regarding future professional development activities and delivery models to the local schools.

e. The PDAC shall have the responsibility for ensuring that the LDPDACs are acting in a manner consistent with the concepts and guidelines set forth herein.

4.0 Program Evaluation: At the conclusion of each professional development program, activity or session conducted (whether initiated by the District, the Local District or by the site), the opportunity shall be provided for written evaluation by all participants, to assess the quality and effectiveness of

Article IX-B – Professional Development

the program and of the presentations, and to provide suggestions for improvement. Whoever was responsible for selecting and/or arranging the program is expected to prepare a brief summary of the evaluation results, and distribute same to the Local School Leadership Council (if the program was provided at the school), the working committee which has responsibility for the subject matter, and the Professional Development Advisory Committee.

5.0 Common Planning for Middle Schools: Common Planning is intended to be used when the teachers share assignments, or organizational structures (such as Small Learning Communities, Houses, Departments, or Teams) or when other program considerations (such as bilingual instruction) suggest that doing so would encourage professional collaboration, and when the requisite approvals have been attained. The participating teachers shall plan the content and activities for Common Planning, for administrative review.

6.0 Teacher Professional Development Projects: Three bargaining unit members shall be selected by UTLA for the purpose of working collaboratively with the District on identified professional development projects. Two existing bargaining unit members shall continue in their current positions working with the National Board Certification (NBC) program and Point Credit/New Teacher Academy until expiration of their five-year term unless extended by mutual agreement. The newly established third position will also work in the area of professional development.

The supervision and evaluation of the above three employees and a determination of their responsibilities shall be determined by the Superintendent and the UTLA President or their designee.