

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Division of Instruction
Frances Gipson, Ph.D.
Chief Academic Officer

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INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE – April 2016

ELEMENTARY RESOURCES & EVENTS

ELEMENTARY BY SUBJECT – Resources & Opportunities

Transitional Kindergarten

TK instruction is aligned to the [Preschool Learning Foundations](#) (the California standards for TK) and builds to beginning Kindergarten California Content Standards with a focus on oral language and social emotional development. Instruction is designed using child-centered developmentally appropriate practices that engage children in authentic learning activities.

TK support web page with resources including Reference Guide 5777.3, the Kindergarten Continuance Form, and the TK Alignment Document (TK-K standards) can be found here: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6503>

English Language Arts

The DIBELS Next and IDEL EOY window will open earlier: **May 1 through the last day of school**. This will allow teachers and schools more time to complete end of year literacy testing, as well as meet with their LAT team to determine which students should be recommended for reclassification.

Early Language and Literacy Plan (ELLP) Academies are growing, with more schools adopting the model, promoting cross-grade-level collaboration and small group instruction according to student need in TK-2. See resources for all schools here:

<http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6545>

PD conducted for ELLP schools can be accessed here:

DESIGNEE PD#1 - <http://bit.ly/ELLPday1>

DESIGNEE PD #2 - <http://bit.ly/ELLPday2>

JANUARY SYMPOSIUM - <http://bit.ly/JanuaryELLP>

ELLP Cohort 1 Schools (15 per LD) have upcoming PD with Designees on April 30 or May 21. Participating schools will be notified via email – Alison.pickering@lausd.net for further information.

ELLP Cohort 2 Schools (30 per LD) are being identified through collaboration with the Division of Special Education Coordinated Early Intervening Services department, the Division of Instruction, and Local Districts. **If you are interested in being a part of ELLP Cohort 2, please communicate this to your director.**

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Elementary Instruction continued...

Literacy Assessments: Schools are encouraged to use Beginning of the Year-Middle of the Year (BOY and MOY) trend data to pinpoint areas where students need further instruction and progress monitoring. **Progress Monitoring tutorial** in PowerPoint for school site use: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/5223>

Ref-6550.0 details literacy assessment policy and requirements.

For information on assessment contact: Alison.pickering@lausd.net

Interim Assessment Blocks: If your site is using SBAC interim assessments, consider using the District interim performance task assessments as open-book practice activities in class, so that students have the opportunity to collaboratively unpack the tasks, use multiple text and media sources, and answer all three types of items (selected, constructed, and extended written). This will assist them in applying the scaffolded learning to online individual assessments. District interim assessments available at: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6428>

History-Social Science

Five Grade 5 Reading Like a Historian (RLH) lessons developed by the Stanford History Education Group are now available online at achieve.lausd.net/hss.

Reading Like a Historian: Content and Pedagogy Development for Grade 5 Teachers will be offered on June 22, 23, or 24 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This is a one-day training opportunity for fifth grade teachers led by the Stanford History Education Group and designed for the beginning and developing user of the *Reading Like a Historian* curriculum. This provides an overview of the RLH curriculum and the application of historical inquiry to promote literacy in elementary social studies. Through RLH, students read closely, evaluate, and interpret primary and secondary sources in order to use text-based evidence to reach a conclusion. Specific methods will address the speaking and listening as well as the writing standards. Registration is open on Learning Zone.

Registration for **Grade 3 Science and History- Social Science Professional Development** on Saturday, April 9th is open on Learning Zone. This course will provide the content and skills needed for successful implementation of the Grade 3 Content Integration Unit in the Spring of 2017.

Elementary Science

- **LAUSD Science Materials Management Leaders Symposium PART 2.** Attention Elementary Schools with Science Labs, Science Materials Managers, and FOSS Kit caretakers. The objective of this meeting is to connect you to available resources. Our second meeting will be held on April 22, 2016. Please RSVP at: <http://goo.gl/forms/dd9MBIku0B>
- **Grade Three Content Integration Preparation** course still has seats available. This course will help teachers prepare their students for the Grade 3 Content Integration Unit that will be released in the 2016-2017 school year. This professional development will be held on **April 9, 2016**. You can register on Learning Zone <https://lz.lausd.net/lz/index.jsp>, keyword : “grade 3 content integration”
- **Old Science Boxes** - If your school has old versions of the FOSS kits, no need to throw them away. We have a program that will recycle the materials. Please email: lillian.valadez-rodela@lausd.net and/or call Nancy Bentov (818) 831-8330 at the Granada Hills Science Materials Center. The materials will be reused to build new kits for schools that are short on materials within LAUSD. Thank you for being green!

Elementary Instruction continues next page...

Elementary Instruction continued...

- **FOSS Kit Refurbishment Program** - Are your FOSS kits in disrepair? We have a program that can provide assistance and peace of mind. At no cost we can provide permanent items from our donations inventory available at the Granada Hills Science Materials Center. Please email: lillian.valadez-rodela@lausd.net and/or call Nancy Bentov (818) 831-8330 at the Granada Hills Science Materials Center for more information.

SECONDARY RESOURCES AND EVENTS

SECONDARY BY DEPARTMENT – Resources and Options for Growth

Mathematics

Strengthening Math Instruction

Due to overwhelming request to host a third session of Strengthening Mathematics Instruction, the Division of Instruction would be partnering with CSU Los Angeles to provide a session of the institute in April. As part of Early Assessment Program, teachers experience cognitively complex problem and pedagogical approaches to deepen students' mathematical knowledge in this two-day institute. This is what teachers who have been through the training are saying:

“What I like most about the training are the clear examples on how we can better our questions and encourage higher order thinking, examples of complex problems and creating those types of problem, and multiple representations.”

Online BEAL Module

The Division of Instruction and the Local District Mathematics Coordinators are collaborating to design and develop online Building Educators Assessment Literacy (BEAL) modules for teachers and schools to use in proving BEAL training. The module is expected to be published by the end of April. Teachers who participated in the January training are said they appreciated: *“Working with SBAC rubrics to score and discussing the scoring process and connecting the demands of SBAC to instruction.”*

Middle School Mathematics Placement Assessments

The district will administer the Algebra Summative and Grade 6 Math Placement Assessments to middle school students this school year. The purpose of this assessment is to support placement decisions for students. The assessments will be administered online. The administration window for the placement assessment is as follows: May 23 – June 3, 2016.

Science

The Division of Instruction is seeking input on possible changes to the middle school science sequence in preparation for continued implementation of NGSS. Please respond by April 13.

Please click on the link for the MS survey <http://tinyurl.com/jox52gb>

The survey link is also posted on the science website <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/4898>

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ADVANCED LEARNING OPTIONS – Professional Development Opportunities

Pre-AP Two-Day Summer Institute for Middle School Teachers, June 16 & 17, 2016

To support the efforts of middle school teachers to ensure students meet A-G requirements, Advanced Learning Options is offering Pre-AP Workshops in the disciplines of ELA, math, science, and social science on Thursday and Friday, June 16 and 17, 2016 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.), at UCLA. Registration will open on April 18 in the Learning Zone.

AP Two-Day Summer Institute for High School Teachers, June 16 & 17, 2016

To support the efforts of high school teachers to ensure students meet A-G requirements, Advanced Learning Options is offering AP Workshops on Thursday and Friday, June 16 and 17, 2016 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.), at UCLA. AP subjects offered include Biology, Calculus A/B B/C, English Language, English Literature, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, U.S. History, and U.S. Government and Politics. Registration will open on April 18 in the Learning Zone.

Two-Day Summer Institute for High School Teachers, June 16 & 17, 2016

To support the efforts of high school teachers to ensure students meet A-G requirements, Advanced Learning Options is offering workshops in the disciplines of ELA, math, science, and social science on Thursday and Friday, June 16 and 17, 2016 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.), at UCLA. Registration will open on April 18 in the Learning Zone.

Knowledge in Action (KIA) – Project-Based Learning for AP Environmental Science

Advanced Learning Options is inviting current AP Environmental Science teachers to enroll in the Knowledge in Action (KIA) study, which begins later this spring. KIA is a project-based learning approach to teaching Advanced Placement that includes comprehensive, exam-aligned curriculum, and extensive professional development support. To learn more about KIA and request an enrollment form please visit www.KIAinLAUSD.com. For more information contact Michael Lovelady at michael.lovelady@lausd.net.

A-G INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT – PASS Professional Development

The PASS program is up and running at many of the school sites. Several sites have students who completed the program! The last professional development, for both math and ELA, provided teachers the opportunity to collaboratively plan lessons and calibrate student work. The PASS Advisors are able to give direct support at your school to provide professional development, calibration and review student work, design lessons, and give demo lessons. Just shoot them an email and they can be at your school to provide your site with anything you may need for implementation. *Continues next page...*

PASS Team: Alison Neill
A-G Math Advisor
alison.neill@lausd.net

Sian Eddington
A-G ELA Advisor
sian.eddington@lausd.net

Rachel Petruzzi
A-G ELA Advisor
rap3913@lausd.net

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COLLEGE AND CAREER EDUCATION – Planning Forward

Master Scheduling Guide

A new master schedule building guide is available on the MiSiS website (choose “MiSiS Training,” click “Master Scheduling,” and go to “Master Scheduling Articles” at the bottom of the page). “Master Schedule Building on MiSiS” will be an invaluable aide to APSCSs and others who need to see what’s new, and refresh their memories of the master schedule building tasks they accomplished last year.

Master Schedule Timeline

The tentative matrix for each school will be posted by April 15, followed by tentative assignments for teachers by May 13.

Summer Term

Summer term schools will have the advantages of a full-time counselor position to provide one-to-one direct services to students. Summer term principals will be meeting at the beginning of the month by Local District for training specific to summer term.

GEAR UP 4LA – Secondary News

Happy National Financial Literacy Month

College and career readiness requires a strong foundation in financial literacy. The great resources shared in this **Instructional Update** help students from elementary to high school improve their financial literacy skills. Not only does this benefit students, it works with the national movement to incorporate financial literacy into our education system and encourage parents to teach money management lessons at home.

A secure financial future starts with savings from allowances to paying for college. Let’s help our students prepare for every part of higher education.

For teens:

- <https://www.jamyway.org/> JA My Way is an online destination for teens to learn about careers, starting a business and managing money. The experience combines games, rewards, information and social media to help teens explore these topics in a fun and exciting way. The free online experience is mobile responsive and draws teens in by having them take a short visual quiz personality test. After they see which of 10 pre-determined personalities they are most aligned with, the user will go through a pathway to explore potential careers, working with money and starting a business.
- <https://everfi.com/k12/vault-understanding-money/> EverFi conducted a survey on the financial capabilities of teens. They assessed more than 94,000 students who completed pre-course and post-course surveys of the EverFi high school financial education course. *Results of the Survey:*
 - Before completing the course, only 25 percent of high school students felt prepared to check and understand their credit score.
 - After course completion, 62 percent of students felt prepared to check and monitor their credit scores.

Find more Gear Up 4LA news in the K-12 section of this *Instructional Update* below.

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LINKED LEARNING – Upcoming Professional Development

The Linked Learning Principals Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016, from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm, at Pickwick Gardens right after the Secondary Principal Meeting. Lunch will be provided. Principals of pathways that are onboarding are invited too. It will be a great opportunity to meet principals who lead the same career pathway as yours.

CTE professional development will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 8:00-noon at Roybal High School beginning in the multi-purpose room. At the PD the CTE teachers will provide CTSO updates, engage in discussions around CTE curriculum development, and receive information about the CTEIG requirements and application process. Laura Cantu, SB1070 Coordinator from the community college district, will present the post-secondary articulation process for CTE classes.

UCLA- LAUSD Collaborative – Updates

Khan Academy Access and Suite of Assessment Workshops

Students who took the SAT or any version of the PSAT have access to personalized SAT study resources. Don Mitchel, Senior Director, College Board, would like to visit all 28 schools within the Collaborative to provide faculty members, students, and parents with workshops on how to improve student outcomes on the SAT and PSAT using Khan Academy. Banked-day Tuesdays, coffee with the principal meetings, and during advisory classes are good times to take advantage of this support.

Khan Academy is an invaluable resource that is underutilized within our District. Please contact either Don Mitchell or Robert Whitman to either schedule an appointment to work with either your faculty, students, or parents or to discuss the workshops in more details. I have included a link that describes test-prep through Khan Academy in more detail. Click [here](#) for more information.

Contact Information:

- Don Mitchel dmitchell@collegeboard.org
- Robert Whitman rdw5302@lausd.net

YOUTH VOTE REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN

The 2016 LA Youth Vote Registration Campaign is a focused civic engagement effort to empower LAUSD students to engage in the voting process. This campaign will focus on 12th grade students who are presently 18 years old or who will be 18 by the June 7th election. This campaign will also work to pre-register students who are 16 and or 17 years of age so that they will be ready to vote by the time they turn 18. It is also designed to encourage students to understand the voting process, participate in youth-led candidate forums, and accept the necessity to register and vote. The goal is to register 3,000 eligible high school students during the “High School Voter Education Movement” taking place April 18th through May 6th.

Community organizations are available to assist high schools with this effort. If you would like a community organization volunteer to register students at your school, please contact Dr. Brenda Manuel at brenda.manuel@lausd.net.

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K-12 RESOURCES & EVENTS

ARTS EDUCATION BRANCH– LAUSD Grand Arts Festival

The LAUSD Grand Arts Festival will be held [on Saturday, April 16th from 10am-7pm](#) at Grand Park in Downtown LA. The District wide arts festival will feature over 2,000 student performers, a student visual arts gallery, a presentation of original student short films, informational and hands-on LAUSD arts school and community arts partner booths, family activities, vendor booths, food trucks, and surprise professional performers. Sponsors include the Arts Education Branch, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Nickelodeon Studios and Beyond the Bell. This free family friendly event is open to everyone. For further information, please call the Arts Education Branch at [\(213\) 241-8222](tel:2132418222) or go to <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/9503>.

Arts Education Branch continues next page...

The Arts Education Branch will feature the upcoming LAUSD Grand Arts Festival on the new television series, Spotlight Arts! hosted by Dr. Steven J. McCarthy, K-12 Arts Coordinator and Christopher Rodriguez, K-12 Music Adviser, premiering in early April on KLCS. This month's episode features student performers from Pio Pico MS and ArTES HS. Check your [local listing for airdates and times](#).

CENTER X– Professional Development Opportunities

Become a UCLA Writing Project Fellow - Summer Institute 2016

A four-week (Monday-Thursday) writing workshop for elementary and secondary teachers and administrators with a \$600 stipend (9 quarter units of UCLA Extension credit available for a fee).

June 20– July 14, 2016

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Application due March 11, 2016

Orientation Meetings on Saturday, April 30 and Saturday, May 21, 2016

[Click here for more information about the workshop.](#)

The Open Door Series: Spanish Dual Immersion and the California Common Core

This conference is envisioned as a space to address bilingualism in our schools and communities. The goal of the conference is to host presentations in which current biliteracy teachers share their knowledge, questions and concerns about implementing the Common Core in two-way Spanish programs.

Saturday, April 23, 2016

8am – 1:00 p.m. at UCLA

Keynote Speaker: Rene Colato Lainez

Fee: \$75

[Click here for more information about the conference.](#)

National Board Information Session

A free information session for educators interested in pursuing National Board Certification in 2016-17.

Saturday, April 16th, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at UCLA

Free event (Parking available in pay-by-space (\$3/hour) in Lot 2)

[Click here to register.](#)

Center X continues next page...

Center X continued...

EdcampK16

EdcampK16 will bring together history scholars and teachers in order to promote collaborative conversations. The goal of these conversations is to explore how a continuum can be established between grades K-12 and higher education that will enrich history instruction.

Saturday, April 2, 2016 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Whittier College

Free Event

[Click here for more information & registration.](#)

GEAR UP 4LA – K-12

National Financial Literacy Month

College and career readiness requires a strong foundation in financial literacy. The great resources shared in this **Instructional Update** help students from elementary to high school improve their financial literacy skills. Not only does this benefit students, it works with the national movement to incorporate financial literacy into our education system and encourage parents to teach money management lessons at home.

A secure financial future starts with savings from allowances to paying for college. Let's help our students prepare for every part of higher education.

For all grade levels:

- <http://www.moneyasyoulearn.org/>, is a great place to find lessons and tasks that connect the Common Core to real life applications while also equipping students with the knowledge to make smart financial decisions. The U.S. President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability developed this site.
- <http://www.comparecards.com/education/student-center> CompareCards' free lesson plans from elementary school through adulthood are available to help teach and encourage financial literacy among America's youth. These lesson plans begin with the basics of money and move on to more complicated topics such as understanding the importance of your credit score, using credit wisely, and investing.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE – Events & Opportunities

- To stay up do date on all the latest news, information and resources related to instructional technology in LAUSD, [subscribe](#) to the monthly ITI newsletter. Read past issues [here](#).
- Computer Science high school teacher summer training applications now available. Please visit: <http://bit.ly/lausdcs> for details (space is limited).

KLCS - Highlights



The Division of Instruction and KLCS are collaborating to provide enhanced media-based instructional services to classrooms and for independent study. Priority initiatives include providing platforms for student expression; and expanding content to

KLCS continues next page...

KLCS continued...

include new innovative programs that reflect student life in the LAUSD, the diversity of our communities, parent engagement and public affairs. April highlights include:

Video in the Classroom Awards is a video competition for teachers and students. For guidelines and entry information, please go to the KLCS.org and click on the “Education” tab.

Autism: Behind the Camera focuses on young adults with autism and the resources needed when students with autism “age out” of high school. Aired April 19, 9:00 p.m.

TED Talks: Science and Wonder

Journey through space, the human body, disappearing landscapes, and the world of Pixar animation as speakers look at the future of nanotechnology, the search for life beyond earth and the science of light. Sunday, April 10, 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday, April 12, 8:00 p.m.

KLCS Live from the Grand Arts Festival at Grand Park on April 16!

In the heart of downtown, Grand Park will be the spotlight for a very spectacular display of talent from local school districts within the LAUSD. Hosted by the LAUSD Arts Education Branch, KLCS will broadcast live breaks beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Fall in Love with Music is a fun exploration of the listening process. Developed over years of classroom and lecture interaction, this series offers streamlined, effective pathways to musical understanding. Mondays at 7:00 p.m. beginning April 18.

NewsBriefs

KLCS broadcasts stories of the LAUSD daily throughout the schedule. Recent stories:

Prom Dress Giveaway: <https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/47zu4nlo02>

West Athens Peace March: <https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/mh7w2r5lu9>

Read Across America (Lomita ES, Santee, 186th Street):

<https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/my25g7ltpi>

<https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/kv0wsjk5gk>

<https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/cszqyf9pt7>

LAUSD At Its Best, anchored by Board Member Dr. Ref Rodriguez, is a series of short promos that share some of the LAUSD’s best practices. April’s videos highlight pilot schools to show their innovative and autonomous approaches to meeting the needs of students.

Polytechnic High School: <https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/ux0tusvwvh> Huntington Park Institute of Applied

Medicine: <https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/6cf8w1rot2>

Social Justice Humanitas Academy: <https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/x2rqog8sbs>

STEM Academy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZAJXQibfo0>

Families Matter/La Familia Importa

Round table discussions with Board Member Monica Garcia emphasize academic achievement, parent and community engagement, and timely issues.

Families Matter (English): <https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/fj0o03hcnw>

La Familia Importa (Spanish): <https://lausd.wistia.com/medias/0n0lo47i4o>

KLCS Website: www.klcs.org

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MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Secondary: SRI for Reclassification:

The **SPRING 2016 SRI for Reclassification** testing window is April 25-May 20, 2016. The Spring 2016 SRI is administered to English Learners in Grades 6-12 who have not reclassified.

English Learners who DO NOT need to take the Spring 2016 administration are those who:

- Passed the SRI in the Fall of 2015 with a score of Basic or above
- Passed the CAHSEE-ELA in 2014-15
- Take an alternative curriculum ELD/ELA course and assessments

In preparation for the Spring 2016 administration, schools may view an **on-line training video** available through MyPLN. The SAM User guide and other pertinent documents and updates can be found on the Multilingual & Multicultural Education Department under the Assessments tab:

<http://achieve.lausd.net/mmed#spn-content>

For questions related to SRI, please contact Ivette Munoz at (213) 241-5582 or Ivette.munoz@lausd.net

LAUSD Pathway to Biliteracy and LAUSD Seal of Biliteracy

The *LAUSD Pathway to Biliteracy* and *LAUSD Seal of Biliteracy* awards have been presented annually to LAUSD students in grades 5, 8, and 12 who demonstrate excellence in English and in a language other than English. All students who demonstrate achievement in learning English and one or more languages other than

English through the established criteria may apply at their school to receive this recognition. In addition, 12th grades students can qualify for California CDE Biliteracy Seal. The criteria is outlined on district world languages and cultures webpage: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/212#spn-content>.

REF-5306.5 *Guidelines for Implementation of the LAUSD Biliteracy Awards and the CDE State Seal of Biliteracy for the 2015-2016 School Year* is available and outlines criteria and procedures. MMED would like to ensure all the students that meet the criteria apply to receive this award.

DUAL Language/Bilingual Programs

13th annual LAUSD Dual Language and World Languages Institute- Saturday, May 21, 2016

Please join us at our 13th annual Dual Language Institute and World Languages Institute. Workshop strands will include sessions on effective instructional strategies for second language learners enrolled in Dual Language, Transitional Bilingual, Maintenance Bilingual and Foreign Language Immersion programs as well as sessions geared toward World Language instruction at both the elementary and secondary levels. The Institute will take place as follows:

Date: Saturday, May 21, 2016

Location: Fairfax HS

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please see the attached Save the Date Flyer for more information or contact our office at (213) 241-2550.

Secondary Dual Language Programs- During the month of April, The Dual Language/ Bilingual Programs Office will be contacting Secondary Dual Language Programs to arrange support with planning and creating a Master Schedule for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year that adheres to District guidelines for dual language programs.

MMED continues next page...

MMED continued...

Dual Language/Bilingual Program Lead Teachers- The third Program Lead Teacher meeting has been scheduled for the month of April as follows:

- Option 1: Monday, April 25, 2016 or
- Option 2: Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Academic English Mastery Program

Written Word Contest's six winners will be honored on Saturday, April 23rd at the COBA Black Child Conference/Scholarship Luncheon. This year's written word contest theme is: "Today's Dreamers, Tomorrow's Inventors!" Please see AEMP website for additional information.

New online curriculum which focuses on using complex texts to develop academic language are now available via our website at <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/192#spn-content>. These lessons are living-breathing lessons that were created by teachers/CLR Fellows. We would like to encourage teachers to try them during their Mainstream English Language Development (MELD) time. Feel free to provide feedback or recommendations at <http://bit.ly/feedbackct>.

MUSIC CENTER – Professional Development

The Music Center is excited to announce its 2016 Institute for Educators - ***In Search of America*** - held from **July 18-22**. This week-long arts integration training for **K-8 educators** will breathe life into American nonfiction and informational texts through theatre and movement, drawing primarily from hip hop dance.

In Search of America will focus on expressing American texts from multiple sources - including the founding of our country civil rights movements, and innovations in math, science, and technology. Highlighting the themes of courage and transformation, the Institute will be led by Music Center master teaching artists **Tiffany Bong** (hip hop dance) and **Madeleine Dahm** (theatre) and feature guest presenters, including storyteller **Diane Ferlatte**.

Join us this summer at The Music Center for the Institute experience while earning up to 2 LAUSD salary points or 3 LMU extension semester units. The cost of the Institute is \$250 per participant, including curriculum resources and parking at The Music Center. Space is limited. Register today!

Register by May 31, 2016 and receive TWO COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS to the [COMPAGNIE KÄFIG](#) dance performance at The Music Center on June 17, 2016!

For more information or to register, please see the Institute flyer and registration form, [here](#).

For further information, please contact me at (213) 972-3376 or kwyffels@musiccenter.org.

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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Teacher Evaluations

The Final Evaluation Report is now available in [MyPGS](#). To support the completion of the Final Evaluation Report, an administrator handbook may be accessed by visiting the *Resources* tab in MyPGS or by clicking [here](#). The deadline to issue the report is May 10, 2016 for teachers at single-track schools. Please contact your Local District's [Teaching and Learning Coordinator](#) for additional support.

2016 Principal Summer Institute

Save the Date! The third annual Summer Institute for principals, "Learning-Centered Leadership," will be held June 14-15 (Elementary & Early Childhood Principals) and June 16-17 (Secondary & Adult Education). Principals will have an opportunity to participate in two days of professional learning led by experts within LAUSD and from the field. For more information, please see the [flyer](#) or contact Professional Learning and Leadership Development at (213) 241-3444 or plld@lausd.net.

UNEXPECTED BENEFITS OF GRADING EFFORT AND HABIT

By Gary R. Hafer, PhD

Hafer is the John P. Graham Teaching Professor at Lycoming College, where he teaches college composition, classical and modern rhetoric, and introduction to literature

Effort and habit are instrumental to learning and writing, but they are often dimly lit in our grading systems. That light needs to brighten with the help of new research and popular literature that highlight how essential habit, effort, and perseverance are to learning. I've used an effort-aware grading system in my teaching for some time now, a B-grading contract that locks hardworking students into a minimum final grade of B. For grades rising above B, the quality of the writing is the focus (the product), but only for students who fulfill the contract (the process). [Read more...](#)

POLICY UPDATES – What's in the works at the Division of Instruction

What's in the works at the Division of Instruction – April 2016

Policy Updates - Policy documents issued by the Division of Instruction (bulletins, reference guides and memorandums) are currently under review and will be published soon.

These policy updates are listed in the table on the next page.

Policy Updates continued...

Division of Instruction Policy Updates

Document Number/Type	Description/Major Changes
REF-5306.5 Guidelines for Implementation of the LAUSD Biliteracy Awards and the CDE State Seal of Biliteracy	Replaces REF-5306.4 This Reference Guide is to provides updated guidelines for the 2016-2016 school year for the implementation of 1) the LAUSD Pathway to Biliteracy Awards; 2) the LAUSD Seal of Biltieracy Award; and 3) the California Department of Education's State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB)..
BUL-1926.2 Requests to Change a Pupil's Grade	Replaces BUL-1926.1 The content has been updated and revised to reflect organization of the Division of Instruction. This bulletin defines a uniform policy and procedure for processing requests to change a pupil's academic grade.
BUL-2533.1 Procedures for Granting Equivalency and Achievement Marks for Language Other Than English (LOTE)	Replaces Bulletin 2533.0 This bulletin outlines procedures for schools to grant equivalency and achievement marks for Language Other than English (LOTE). Section 51225.3 of the California Education Code instructs school districts to adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study for LOTE. Any student who has developed proficiency in a language other than English, even without documented formal instruction, may receive validation based on a district-approved examination. A student may fulfill the minimum "E" (LOTE) requirement for graduation. The student may then opt to continue to take higher-level LOTE coursework.
REF-5232.2 Guidelines for Identifying Students as Gifted in the High Achievement & Specific Academic Categories	Replaces REF-5232.1 This revision informs District staff that LAUSD students who meet the criteria in the High Achievement and Specific Academic Ability Categories are automatically uploaded into My Integrated Student Information System (MiSiS) for identification as gifted. It also includes the policy changes implemented for students enrolled in non-LAUSD schools. The purpose of this Reference Guide is to describe the eligibility criteria and procedures for referring eligible students who reside within the boundaries of Los Angeles Unified School District and who attend LAUSD schools for identification as gifted. It provides guidelines for the process for search, screening and referral of potentially gifted students in the High Achievement Ability and Specific Academic Ability Categories.

This concludes this month's issue of the Instructional Update. Thank you for all you do to support teaching and learning.