



Learning from California's CLAS Experience to Inform Assessment of the Common Core

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Introducing the Brief

- Emerged from early assessment work at the district level
- Data Sources
 - Research on CLAS
 - Media accounts of CLAS
 - Interviews conducted in spring 2012

The History of CLAS

- Administered in 1993 and 1994
- Aligned to the California Frameworks
- Assessment format
 - Multiple choice items
 - Constructed response items
 - Performance tasks

The History of CLAS

- Sources of criticism
 - Controversial assessment items
 - Low student scores
 - Technical problems
- Funding for reauthorization vetoed in 1994

Introducing the Brief

- Assessment as an essential component of implementing the Common Core
- Timing: released September 2012
- 4 key lessons

Lesson 1

Implement immediate and sustained capacity-building strategies.

- Help teachers develop performance tasks and review student work
- Capitalize on existing efforts
- Demonstrate commitment
- Begin now

Lesson 2

Anticipate and respond to potential controversy surrounding assessment content and format.

- Transparency and clear messaging
- Prepare students and the public for new assessment formats

Lesson 3

Address technical and administrative challenges around assessment development, administration, and scoring.

- Anticipate and plan for technical challenges

Lesson 4

Build a constituency of support for new instructional and assessment efforts through a clear strategy of public engagement.

- Educate the public
- Expect imperfection and improvement
- Leverage teachers and leaders
- Anticipate, identify, and respond to criticism

Contact Information

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Exercise

- Group Work
 - Each group will address 1 of 4 questions
- Report Out
 - Brief comments to the full group

Questions

1. Teacher outreach and capacity building
 - What are the challenges?
 - What are potential strategies?
 - Are there tools that can help?

Questions

- ## 2. Collaboration and cross-district learning
- Are there any existing channels?
 - What concrete steps can districts take to open and expand lines of communication and collaboration?

Questions

3. Communication and constituency building
 - What are the challenges?
 - What are the potential strategies?
 - Are there tools and/or supports that can help?

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