



CALI Quarter
Volume II
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This newsletter is designed to provide you with updated information and valuable resources regarding the Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative (CALI).

I. Bureau of Accountability and Improvement Update

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CALI Evaluation: The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) contracted with RMC Research Corporation to conduct an evaluation of the statewide system of support known as CALI. Work on the evaluation began early in 2009, and continued through June, 2010. The Final Report builds upon an earlier Interim Report, presented in September of 2009 that presented a picture of CALI implementation at the district level; this report examines CALI implementation at the school level, as well, and blends the two pictures into one comprehensive review. The report can be accessed on the CSDE CALI Information and Resources page:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=322294>.

The CSDE has developed a Quality Assurance Plan to implement the recommendations from the RMC Research Evaluation and feedback from schools and districts. This Plan was developed in collaboration with the RESC Alliance/SERC and the Quality Assurance Committee. Both the CALI Evaluation and Quality Assurance Plans are available for download on the CSDE CALI Information and Resources page:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=322294>.

Data Showcase: The 6th Annual Data Showcase will be held on April 27th and 28th, 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Waterbury. For more information, please contact Shauna Brown at shauna.brown@ct.gov.

District Contacts for Paraprofessional Issues: Each district in Connecticut has identified a central office employee, on an annual basis, as a district contact person for paraprofessional issues. The role and function of this person is to act as a liaison between the Department and/or SERC and to disseminate information of importance to paraprofessionals, such as personnel development opportunities, policy updates, resource availability, information exchange, data gathering regarding best practices and networking across districts on effective practices for paraprofessionals. The district contact may also be used to collect information regarding the paraprofessionals within the district. This contact receives a monthly newsletter by e-mail. All issues of this newsletter are posted on the CSDE Paraprofessional Information and Resources page: www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali.

Workshops for Title IX Coordinators and other School Officials

Details are at: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2681&q=322602>

Register at: <http://www.aces.org/workshops/index.aspx>

- Training for Title IX/Equity Coordinators - Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- What School Professionals Should Know for Successfully Investigating Complaints and Reports of Harassment in Schools and School-Related Activities - Monday, Oct. 18 or Oct 25, 2010, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- The Nuts and Bolts of Writing an Investigation Report, Friday, Nov. 12, 2010, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

II. Module Updates:

Effective Tier I Instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs) Basic Training: This two-day workshop is designed for teams of general education teachers, ESL specialists, and school administrators who are dedicated to improving Tier I instruction for ELLs and who can provide on-site embedded support for other teachers in their school districts. Day I reviews how to use data to enhance ELL instruction and best practices for instructing ELL students. Day II focuses on how to train other teachers using the ELL CALI module. The two days of training are one month apart so that teachers have time to implement strategies from Day I before attending Day II.

Objectives:

As a result of taking part in this workshop, participants will:

1. Understand the stages of language acquisition and provide differentiated instruction for students based on these stages.
2. Use language and content assessment data to make instructional decisions for their classrooms.
3. Identify and practice sheltered instructional strategies, which are specifically advantageous to the learning needs of ELLs.

Registration is now available on the CALI registration site: www.sdecali.net.

Best Practices for Educating Our English Language Learners Advanced Training (ELLs): This one day training is designed for those general education teachers, student support personnel, and school administrators who have already completed the CALI Basic: Instructional Best Practices in Educating our ELLs” workshop. This revised workshop will consist of three stand-alone but interrelated modules, varying in time. The topics of the modules are as follows:

1. Vocabulary Development for Literacy
2. Linguistic & Authentic Content Assessment & the CT ELL Framework
3. Learning Disabilities vs. Language Development

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify and practice vocabulary instructional strategies, which are specifically advantageous to the literacy learning needs of ELLs.
2. Use language and content assessment data to make instructional decisions for their classrooms.
3. Incorporate Connecticut’s ELL Framework into their content lessons, thereby ensuring that the state standards and content lessons address language development issues necessary for ELL students.

4. Identify diagnosis strategies to help clarify if an ELL student's difficulties are due to disabilities, an expected part of second language development, or an inadequate learning environment.

Registration is now available on the CALI registration site: www.sdecali.net.

Data Analysis for Educational Leaders: In this workshop, participants will learn how to effectively analyze data for district and school improvement planning. Participants will be given tools to make instructional, curricular and programmatic decisions to improve teaching and learning.

Registration is now available on the CALI registration site: www.sdecali.net.

Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI):

Revised Trainings: The SRBI Core Team of the Bureau of Accountability and Improvement with assistance from SERC and EASTCONN revised the SRBI Trainings to better meet the needs of schools and districts as they work to implement the SRBI framework. Registration is available at www.sdecali.net.

Connecticut's 3-Year Strategic Plan for SRBI: The purpose of this three year plan is to anticipate and support the needs of educators, schools, and districts with their efforts to implement SRBI effectively and with fidelity in order to yield improved student outcomes. This strategic plan will be utilized as a working document by the CSDE to plan, organize, and oversee SRBI activities across the state provided by various educational agencies and professional organizations. It is anticipated that this document will articulate and assist with alignment, coherence, and coordination of activities both regionally and statewide; foster seamless and consistent communication to the field; reduce duplication of efforts; and foster cross-agency collaboration in order to reserve resources for direct district support. This plan will be revisited quarterly to evidence progress, adjust timelines based on available resources, and revise activities/outcomes based on needs assessment from the field.

SRBI and Literacy Conference: The CSDE, in collaboration with SERC, is holding a SRBI Literacy Conference on May 3, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT. For more information, please contact Stacy Rosay by email at rosay@ctserc.org.

Topical Papers: Two topical papers, The Use of Data Teams in Connecticut's SRBI Process and Effective Communication with Families about SRBI, are available for review online at www.ct.gov/sde/SRBI.

III. Leadership and Learning Center Update

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The Leadership and Learning Center (LLC) developed a webinar to articulate the differences between the new Engaging Classroom Assessments (ECA) and Making Standards Work (MSW) modules. The webinar can be accessed at: <http://www.leadandlearn.com/content/ctsde/>.

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