

**Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office  
2016-17 Local Accountability Plan Stakeholder Questions & Answers**

**1. Would the after-school program be available at every Community School campus?**

The goal of the after-school programs such as the Odysseyware Lab and Intramural Sports is to provide opportunities for students to engage in credit recovery opportunities and/or to participate in positive social activities that build self-esteem and improve self-value. It is the intention of KCSOS that some or all of these activities will be available to students at all Community School sites.

**2. Can transportation passes be provided for students who attend outlying campuses? (Regional Transit, North Kern Regional Transit, TCAT, etc.)?**

Transportation is one of the challenges facing Alternative Education students. For this reason, KCSOS has built regional campuses in an effort to have options available throughout Kern County. KCSOS will continue to seek partnership opportunities with the various public transportation agencies in Kern County and adjacent counties. Parents and guardians are encouraged to car pool in an effort to help students get to school. On an emergency basis, schools provide temporary transportation support to students and families in need in the form of passes and vouchers.

**3. Are we purchasing new curriculum to replace Edge for our English Language Learners?**

A team comprised of instructional specialists, teachers, and administrators thoroughly evaluated various programs designed to meet the needs of English learners and struggling readers, including careful consideration to the uniqueness of court and community school classrooms. The team recommended that we purchase LANGUAGE! Live, a comprehensive ELA curriculum that blends online instruction with targeted teacher-directed instruction. A small cohort of teachers are currently piloting the curriculum with full implementation planned for Fall 2016/2017.

**4. The presentation showed which areas we are showing improvement in. Which areas are we not showing as much improvement in and how will that be addressed in the 16/17 LCAP?**

Based on data acquired through survey responses, the greatest areas of needed improvement are: Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation, parent/guardian input, and student engagement.

CCSS implementation will continue to be supported through the efforts of the Math and Reading Specialists as well as ongoing professional development for instructional staff, and full implementation of C3 coaching observations. C3 coaching observations assist teachers with implementation of Common Core teaching methods and standards.

Parent/Guardian input is being addressed by increasing the use of School Messenger for parent communication, Town Hall and Open House events, and moving towards the implementation of the Aeries Parent Portal that will allow parents to view student grades via the Internet. We also continue to increase the number of Parent Project participants.

Student engagement will be addressed through the investment in after school activities such as Odysseyware labs for credit recovery and intramural sports programs.

- 5. Kern High School District requires many of their students to complete substance abuse and anger management counseling prior to their return to district. Are we going to make more of these classes available to our students?**

A large majority of the students referred to Alternative Education struggle with substance abuse and/or anger management and behavioral issues. KCSOS recognizes the importance of providing support in these areas and has partnered with the School Community Partnerships Division to provide Aggression Replacement Training and Matrix substance abuse treatment. Efforts have also been made to increase mentor and mental health counseling services available to students through a partnership with AmeriCorps and the KCSOS SELPA. KCSOS continues to seek opportunities to increase supports in this area.

- 6. At North Kern Community School, there are restrictions on how Parent Project is provided by the outside agency – they will only service Kern County residents who are on Medi-Cal. Can we train additional staff in Parent Project and ART in order to assist more students and parents?**

Yes. Parent engagement is a priority and KCSOS is committed to continuing to strengthen the partnership with parents to improve the academic outcomes of students. Increasing the number of staff qualified to provide Parent Project and ART classes will provide greater opportunities for all North Kern parents to receive the necessary support to engage in their child's education through Parent Project services.