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Investing in Teachers/Training Component COMMON CORE STANDARDS Frequently Asked Questions

A. General Information

A-1) How is the recently announced Common Core training different from the training offered this current school year?

The recently announced training is being funded by the \$8.4 million approved by the Legislature as part of the Investing in Teachers initiative. It allows the state to expand upon current training efforts and extend the reach of those efforts out to a much larger group of teachers.

A-2) What is the purpose of the training effort?

The intent of this statewide professional development is to foster the formation of professional learning communities through which participants will work towards the goal of implementing the Common Core standards within a learning environment rich in collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking.

As South Dakota moves toward assessment of Common Core standards in the 2014-15 school year, it will be critical that teachers have a deep and thorough understanding of the standards, as well as an ability to design and deliver instruction aimed at helping students achieve mastery of those standards.

B. State-Sponsored Trainings

B-1) Who should attend state-sponsored Common Core training?

Teachers who are certified to teach English language arts and/or math at the elementary, middle or high school levels should plan to attend. In addition, special education teachers are invited to attend. Each of these individuals would be eligible to receive the stipend (for training outside of contracted time), OR districts could claim the substitute reimbursement for these teachers (for training completed while teachers are on contracted time).

If a district chooses to create its own plan focused on implementing Common Core standards, these same individuals should be the primary target of the training efforts and would be the individuals eligible for the stipend.

B-2) Is Common Core training mandatory?

While Common Core training is not required, it is recommended for teachers who are certified to teach English language arts and/or math at the elementary, middle or high school levels, as well as special education teachers. As South Dakota moves toward assessment of Common Core standards in the 2014-15 school year, it will be critical that teachers have a deep and thorough understanding of

the standards, as well as an ability to design and deliver instruction aimed at helping students achieve mastery of those standards.

B-3) Is the Common Core training also for principals?

Administrators are welcome to attend; however, they will not receive a stipend. As part of the Investing in Teachers training component, the state will be offering leadership training for school administrators. The Department of Education is working with Dr. Rick Melmer, University of South Dakota, to develop and deliver this training, which will include a focus on Common Core and on teacher standards and evaluation.

B-4) If staff attended the pilot held summer 2011 or the training held during the 2011-12 school year, can they get paid to attend the same workshop this summer (2012) or next school year (2012-13)?

No. If they attended last year, they cannot get paid to attend the same workshop.

B-5) Is Module One only for math teachers? How about Module Two?

Yes. Module One is for all math teachers, including special education and Title I teachers that teach math. Module Two is for both teachers of ELA and math.

B-6) Will teachers outside the reading/language arts or math areas receive a stipend for working on incorporating the Common Core standards this summer?

No, they will not receive a stipend. The training is for teachers of ELA and math.

The department is putting together professional development for non-ELA middle and high school teachers surrounding the Common Core Literacy in Social Studies and Common Core Literacy in Science and Technical Subject standards. Those teachers will not be eligible for a stipend nor district for substitute reimbursement. More information will be forthcoming about this professional development.

B-7) How will the payment process work?

- 1) When teachers attend training **outside their contract time** (eg., after school, weekends or summer), the payment for their participation will **be paid directly to the teacher**. Teachers may attend either a state-sponsored training or a training that is part of a District-created PD Plan that has been approved by the State. Stipends paid to these teachers will be paid directly to the teacher (payment will NOT flow through the school district).
- 2) When teachers attend training **within their contract time**, no payment will be made to the participant, but the **district will be reimbursed for substitutes** hired.

Substitute reimbursement:

- Substitute reimbursement will be given directly to districts.
- The district must complete and submit the department's substitute reimbursement claim form.
- The districts must submit to the Department of Education an attendance list of teachers that participated in each workshop. Teachers must sign the registration list.

B-8) Could a module be taken during the school year if a summer date does not work?

Yes, that is an option.

B-9) Are teachers required to take Modules One and Two before taking Modules Three and Four this summer?

No, they are not required to take Modules One and Two before taking Modules Three and Four.

Module One is a basic overview of the 8 Standards of Math Practice. Module Three is gaining a deeper understanding and application of the 8 Standards for Math Practice.

Module Two focuses on gaining an understanding of disaggregated templates (KUDs) and Webb Leveling. This content is not covered directly in any other module.

B-10) Is Module Three a one- or two-day training?

For elementary teachers, who teach both math and ELA, Module Three will be a two-day training, and teachers will register for each separately. The first day will be Module Three for Math (8 Standards of Math Practice), and the second day will be Module Three for ELA (focus on Informational Text).

For middle and high school teachers, who teach **either** math or ELA, Module Three will be a one-day training. The teacher would register for whichever subject he or she teaches.

C. District-Created Plan Option

C-1) If a district sponsors in-house Common Core training, and its district plan is accepted by the department, would teachers be able to register for some of the state-sponsored modules?

Yes, this is a possibility. For example: If a district plans to offer pd during the school year for two days, the district would request \$1000 for the trainer (the department is allowing up to \$500/day for trainers) and no stipend for teachers. The elementary teachers from that district could then attend four days of state-sponsored training, and a middle and high school teacher could attend three days of state-sponsored training.

C-2) If the district just plans to have staff attend the summer workshops, does the district still have to do a district plan?

No. The District-created Plan Option is only for districts that want to hire their own trainer and carry out district-led professional development.

C-3) My district would like to do a regional Common Core training this spring/summer and hire someone to do this for several area schools. Can we do that?

Districts can submit a district professional development plan and hire a trainer to lead their pd. It is acceptable to use an outside trainer for this purpose. Some districts are looking at ESA staff members or a curriculum director from another district as potential trainers. If the training is in the summer, funds can be used to pay the teachers a stipend, however funds cannot be used to pay the trainer. If the training is held during the school year, the district can request funds to pay the trainer. The district application can be found at <http://doe.sd.gov/secretary/ittraining.asp#distPD>

C-4) If a district is planning its own training and a teacher registers for the state-sponsored training, who has the final decision regarding which training is attended?

If a district is planning to host its own pd for five days and a teacher wants to attend the state-sponsored training, the state will inform the teacher that he/she will not receive a stipend for the state training. In other words, the funds will follow the district decision.

Of course, the department recommends that districts communicate their plans to teachers, which is especially important if a district is choosing the option to create its own plan.

D. Online Professional Development Option

D-1) Will the online professional development cover all modules?

The online professional development will cover most of the content, but condensed in a way that is appropriate for online learning.

D-2) Are those who register for the online option eligible for the stipend?

Yes. Eligible teachers (as described above) who register and complete the full online option will be eligible for the stipend.

D-3) Can teachers register for Modules Two-Six (face to face workshops) and the online option, and still receive a stipend?

No. Teachers cannot combine these two options.

D-4) When will the online option be available and what will the window be for completion?

The online professional development will coincide with spring semester of the 2012-13 school year. So, it will start in January of 2013 and conclude in May 2013.