

IMPLEMENTING NEXT GENERATION CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

“Scholastic has pushed us into developing more rigorous curriculum, constantly challenging us. It’s empowering. We know we are going to be able to challenge our students. We’re really excited.”

DISTRICT PROFILE

Metro Status: Suburban

Total Schools: 13

Grades: PreK-12

Total Enrollment: 12,067

**Eligible for Free or
Reduced-Price Lunch:** 71%

English Language Learners: 27%

GOALS

- Implement eight new units of ELA curriculum across every grade level in 2013–2014.
- Map backward using Smarter Balanced’s four ELA claims and provide targets as a foundational framework to build brand new curriculum maps.
- Bring new instructional strategies to life in classrooms.

CHALLENGES

San Jacinto Unified School District is one of the most diverse communities in Riverside County, both in ethnicity and socioeconomic status. As a Unified School District, their goal is consistency at every grade level PreK-12. In facing the new standards, however, San Jacinto USD teachers were challenged by a fear of the unknown. The new standards were ambiguous. Teachers were overwhelmed as they tried to implement new instructional practices, unsure of what it needed to look like in the classroom.

“From that very first meeting it was evident that Scholastic was going to be able to provide us that national perspective we were looking for. They had someone to support each grade-level span.”

“ Now you feel this high level of comfort, as teachers delved into it and worked together and synergistically built the curriculum components or the units of study. ”

SOLUTION

■ Building Deep Understanding

All stakeholders in San Jacinto USD engaged in interactive, professional learning which ensured an effective, successful, and cohesive district-wide transformation. SAP team members supported teachers, coaches, principals, and district leaders in developing and maintaining a deep and unified understanding of not only the ELA instructional shifts, but more importantly, Smarter Balanced claims and targets.

■ Transforming Curriculum and Assessment

SAP supported participants in deconstructing each of their relevant grade-level standards and Next Generation Assessment claims and targets. Building this understanding allowed teachers to develop essential questions and pacing guides, sort standards and targets for the year, and select learning outcomes for each unit to be prepared.

Having unpacked the standards and planned their unit goals, the San Jacinto team embarked upon assessment design, solidifying participants' understanding of the formative, interim, and summative assessment types. This enabled participants to align assessments to each of the new units under development.

While planning instructional strategies, SAP consultants also ensured that participants prepared learning activities for each instructional unit along with a plan for differentiated instruction.

■ Engaging in Next Generation Instruction

English Language Arts and Content-Area teachers collaborated with their colleagues through interactive, professional learning opportunities. This work reinforced the cutting-edge instructional practices teachers had discovered through the curriculum development process. It also provided participants with the opportunity to receive pinpointed feedback from the SAP team.

SUCCESS!

San Jacinto Unified School District is kicking off 2013-2014 with eight new Common Core-ready ELA units for every PreK-12 grade level. District educators now have a deep understanding of the coming assessment and in just five months have deconstructed the Common Core strands, mapped units backward from the assessment consortium claims and targets, selected a variety of complex texts, and planned for differentiated instruction.

District leaders say that there is an excitement and an enthusiasm around what teachers believe to be a great sense of ownership. The entire process has empowered teachers who now are excited once again to stand in front of their students and who are eager to implement their hard work and newly developed units.