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SFUSD LEADS NATION WITH IMPLEMENTING NEW MATH STANDARDS
San Francisco Consortium Awarded $3 Million Grant from Bechtel to Implement Math Core

September 7, 2011 (SAN FRANCISCO) - The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) will be one of the first large districts in the state to implement California’s new Common Core Standards in Mathematics. The San Francisco School Alliance (SFSA) in partnership with SFUSD and the Charles A. Dana Center of The University of Texas at Austin, has been awarded a three-year $3 million grant from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation to conduct a comprehensive project that will support SFUSD in aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices and policies to the standards as well as in building capacity to teach the new standards to all of their students.

In 2010, for the first time in U.S. history, 45 states joined forces to implement a set of common core standards in mathematics to help the nation’s students develop the math abilities necessary to compete in the global marketplace. A unique component of the standards is that they were created, for the first time, with the goal in mind of creating college and career ready skills for students from kindergarten to 12th grade. Math will be taught with the understanding that what a child learns in first grade impacts how and what they learn in second grade, as well as every successive grade all the way to 12th grade, and beyond into their careers.

Dr. Uri Treisman, Director of the Charles A. Dana Center, commented that “The Dana Center's commitment is to work with the district and its partners to implement the new Common Core mathematics standards in ways that best reflect SFUSD's strategic plan, the talents of its many mathematics and administrative leaders, and the promise of high achievement for all its students.”

"We are excited to invest in this partnership to help San Francisco seize this opportunity to move toward higher achievement in mathematics for all its students,” said Susan Harvey, STEM Program Director at S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation.

“We strongly believe that every child has the right to be well-educated – it’s a matter of social justice. The opportunities provided by this grant will allow our talented teachers and administrators to engage in a deep and thoughtful process of reflection and learning around the common core standards in mathematics in order to transform the learning outcomes for all students so that they are prepared for successful 21st century citizenship,” said Richard A. Carranza, SFUSD Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Innovation and Social Justice.

This project is a collaborative effort among organizations that have a history of working together.
“This grant will allow the district to collaborate with the best mathematics team in the country to deliver to our students a solid curriculum aligned to the state’s common core standards in mathematics, and to build the internal capacity of the district to carry on this work in English Language Arts, and in Science in the near future,” said Terry Bergeson, Executive Director of the San Francisco School Alliance.

“We’re focusing on the core curriculum because we are committed to equity and access. Our students and families can be assured that no matter which school they attend, they will have access to the same rich, robust, and rigorous curriculum that prepares them for college or career,” said Carlos A. Garcia, SFUSD Superintendent. “We are grateful to the San Francisco School Alliance for its partnership, to help us secure these critical resources”

A former Superintendent of Public Instruction in Washington State, Terry Bergeson is familiar with the work of the Dana Center and has brought their expertise to the SFUSD.

“The Dana Center has a strong history of successful collaboration with SFSA Executive Director Terry Bergeson,” said Dr. Uri Treisman, Founder and Director of the Dana Center. “We are excited to be working with her again in San Francisco.”

About the San Francisco School Alliance
The San Francisco School Alliance is an independent, non-profit organization that develops critical partnerships, raises money, and advocates for policies to ensure that each student in our city’s public schools has access to quality education and graduates, college and career ready. http://www.sfschoolalliance.org

About San Francisco Unified School District
The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is the eighth largest school district in California, educating over 53,000 students every year. The district’s mission is to provide each student with an equal opportunity to succeed by promoting intellectual growth, creativity, self-discipline, cultural sensitivity, and democratic responsibility. http://www.sfusd.edu.

About the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
The S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the Stephen Bechtel Fund, family foundations, support well-managed non-profit organizations that provide quality programs and create significant sustained benefits in areas of special interest to the Founder and Directors. STEM Education is a primary focus area for the Foundation. http://www.sdbjrfoundation.org

About the Dana Center
Since its inception at the University of Texas at Austin nearly 20 years ago, the Dana Center has developed a national reputation for its work to ensure a high-quality education for every student, particularly in mathematics and science. To date, its staff of more than 80 has worked intensively with dozens of school systems in nearly 20 states and has reached 98 percent of Texas’s more than 1,200 school districts via its professional development and other services. http://www.utdanacenter.org

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