



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2007

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### **Commission Approves Support and Assessment Induction Programs for New Teachers**

(SACRAMENTO) – A central valley school district and Orange County charter school will join 154 programs statewide offering new teachers critical support, assessment and feedback through the Beginning Support and Assessment (BTSA) Induction program as a result of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing’s recent action.

At its August 9, 2007 meeting, the Commission approved the following new BTSA Induction programs:

- Dos Palos Oro Loma Joint Unified School District (Dos Palos, CA)
- Orange County High School of the Arts (Santa Ana, CA)

The BTSA Induction program provides formative assessment, individualized support and advanced content for newly-credentialed, beginning teachers, and is the pathway to a California Clear Teaching Credential. The BTSA Induction program is co-administered by the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

BTSA Induction serves California teachers and students by:

- Providing an effective transition into teaching careers for first- and second-year teachers
- Improving the educational performance of students through improved training, information, and assistance for participating teachers
- Enabling beginning teachers to be effective in teaching students who are culturally, linguistically, and academically diverse
- Ensuring the professional success and retention of new teachers

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- Ensuring that a support provider provides intensive individualized support and assistance to each participating beginning teacher
- Ensuring that an individual induction plan is in place for each participating beginning teacher and is based on an ongoing assessment of the development of the beginning teacher
- Ensuring continuous program improvement through ongoing research, development, and evaluation

BTSA Induction programs may be offered by school districts, county offices of education, and/or institutions of higher education. Local education agencies may receive state funding to support induction programs through the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment grant program. In order to receive funds, participating local education agencies must develop and implement teacher induction programs that meet standards adopted by the Commission and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Induction programs that meet the *Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Professional Teacher Induction Programs* may recommend candidates for a California Clear Teaching Credential.

For fiscal year 2006-07, BTSA Induction provided more than 28,000 participating teachers in 154 programs with formative assessment of their teaching practices, professional development to promote effective teaching practices and student learning, and the advanced content required for the California Clear Teaching Credential.

BTSA Induction programs vary in organizational design and include single district programs, consortia of districts as well as large, county office of education-based consortia. Each BTSA Induction program works in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education.

Attached is contact information and descriptions of each new Commission-approved program.

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**NEW BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT AND ASSESSMENT (BTSA)  
INDUCTION PROGRAMS**

**Approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
August 9, 2007**

**Dos Palos Oro Loma Joint Unified School District—BTSA Induction**

The Dos Palos Oro Loma Joint Unified School District (DPOLJUSD) is a rural district of 2,676 students located in the central area of California in the San Joaquin Valley. The school district employs 150 teachers in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12. The student demographics of DPOLJUSD include 76% low income students and 34% second language learners. The district's geographic area is very large, with some students riding the bus for 1 ½ hours each way to school. The teacher retention rate within the district is low, as the distance from a larger city where many teachers reside is lengthy. This impacts the new teacher's ability to meet the requirements for the clear credential and continue with professional development activities. With a local Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction Program, the DPOLJUSD teachers will have high accessibility to the training required.

The DPOLJUSD works with a number of partnering agencies to assist in the Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction Program. These agencies and institutions of higher education include: California State University, Fresno, Fresno Pacific University, University of California, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and Merced County Office of Education.

The DPOLJUSD Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction Program anticipates enrollment of approximately 18-22 during the 2007-2008 school year. The program will implement the formative assessment system from University of California, Santa Cruz New Teacher Center to train and assist new teachers and support providers.

**For further program information please contact: Jan Wood (209) 392-6106**

**Orange County High School of the Arts (OCHSA)—BTSA Induction**

The Orange County High School of the Arts (OCHSA) is an Independent Charter School serving approximately 1,300, 7th through 12th grade students in the southern California region. In 2000, OCHSA opened its doors to serve artistically talented students while providing a rigorous college preparation academic program. Within its seven years of existence, OCHSA has been named a California Distinguished School, a NCLB National

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Blue Ribbon School and the International NETWORK of Schools for the Advancement of Arts Education's 2006 Exemplary School Award recipient.

As an independent charter school, OCHSA is sponsored by Santa Ana Unified School District which has the responsibility of auditing all state and federally funded programs within OCHSA.

OCHSA serves as a separate Local Education Agency and answers directly to the state for testing, curriculum requirements, and funding. The Orange County High School of the Arts Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Teacher Induction Program also partners with California State University, Bakersfield and the Orange County Department of Education.

At the outset, OCHSA was able to hire teachers committed to the artistic and academic excellence of the students. OCHSA is committed to the training and support of these teachers. During 2007-2008 the Orange County High School of the Arts Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Teacher Induction Program will serve 17 teachers participating in the program and implement the CFASST<sup>1</sup> formative assessment system to support new teachers.

Through the Orange County High School of the Arts Professional Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Teacher Induction Program, OCHSA strives to strengthen its teachers in the unique needs of the artistic student, while at the same time ensuring teachers' competence and excellence in all of the Induction standards in order to assist all teachers in becoming highly effective practitioners across varied teaching environments.

**For further program information please contact: Sue Vaughn (714) 560-0900 x-6110**

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<sup>1</sup> California Formative Assessment and Support System for Teachers