

**Report on the Technical Assistance Visit to
Standards Aligned Instruction Leadership (SAIL)
Santa Barbara**

April 2010

Overview of this Report

A summary of the Technical Assistance visit to the Standards Aligned Instruction Leadership (SAIL) is provided.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

New institutions, upon approval of their initial educator preparation programs, are assigned to one of the seven accreditation cohorts. In order to provide feedback to the new sponsors on their program implementation to date, and to report to the COA on the progress of the programs, Technical Assistance visits are provided two years prior to the scheduled accreditation site visit. Technical Assistance visits that have been conducted for 2009-10 include the following institutions: Santa Barbara County Education Office, Oakland Unified Intern Program, REACH, Standards Aligned Instructional Leadership (SAIL), and the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). This item reports on the technical assistance visit to the Standards Aligned Instruction Leadership (SAIL), Santa Barbara.

In 2004, the Commission granted to the Standards Aligned Instruction Leadership (SAIL) initial institutional approval and the Committee on Accreditation approved the program's Guidelines-based Professional Clear Administrative Services Credential Program. SAIL has partnered with the Santa Barbara Elementary and High School Districts. SAIL began operating a program, the SAIL Experienced Administrators Project in 2008-2009, for the Santa Barbara School Districts leadership team with this mission: "Instructional leaders collaborate to create a culture of continuous learning and inspire passion by developing a clear vision that establishes goals for high quality instruction of a diverse population." Clear credential candidates, collaborating with the leadership team in this professional development program complete two years of professional development in a blend of traditional face-to-face experiences, online support learning and professional coaching/mentoring. The program currently has only two participants.

The technical assistance visit took place on April 14-15, 2010. The program personnel were well-prepared for the visit. The CTC staff followed many of the procedures that are used in a traditional accreditation site visit. The major difference was that no standard findings were decided and no accreditation recommendation was considered. Rather, staff provided formative feedback to the institution about the adequacy of evidence provided to demonstrate that all standards were being addressed by the program.

The first day of the visit consisted of an orientation to the program by the program's management team followed by back to back interviews with stakeholders. The consultant

interviewed the program leadership, leadership at the district office, seminar instructors, the external evaluator, field supervisor, employer, and candidates. The consultant considered various aspects of the program and their alignment with the standards. The second day consisted of an early morning meeting with the program director to clarify the consultant's understanding of the program operations and to ask further questions about some of the issues raised in the stakeholder interviews. A written report was provided to and discussed with program personnel at an exit meeting.

At the time of the technical assistance visit SAIL offered only a single program with two candidates. It is unclear, however, whether the Santa Barbara School Districts will continue the partnership for the 2010-2011 school year.

In general, based upon the evidence reviewed over the course of the two days, the program appears to be well-managed and no major concerns were discovered. Some areas of potential growth or improvement were discussed by the consultant, which will be addressed, should the program offer another program in California in 2010-2011.

Feedback was well received by the program personnel. Personnel expressed gratitude at having the opportunity for the consultant to examine their program prior to a formal site visit. They commented that they valued the constructive comments provided about program operations as this relates to the California standards, documentation, and expectations at a formal accreditation site visit.