

Washington Core to College Project

Washington College Readiness/Transition Courses: Potential Pilot Site Information

Purpose

- The Washington Core to College (C2C) project is recruiting 2014-15 pilot sites for the next phase of our statewide project focused on how higher education institutions can support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced assessments. This phase focuses on 12th grade college readiness courses to be co-developed by higher education faculty and high school teachers. These courses would be available interested districts across the state beginning in the 2015-16 academic year.
- The overall goal of these “transition” courses is to help high school students assessed by the Smarter Balanced 11th-grade assessment as “not ready for college” become “college-ready” during their senior year; students successful in these courses would be able to enroll in college credit-bearing courses without remediation or additional placement testing when they enter higher education institutions in Washington.
- Through the pilot sites we hope to learn how well the courses work both for students in terms of learning and academic success and for teachers in terms of the clarity and value of the resource materials available to them, as well as the effectiveness of the teacher training and professional development offered for these courses.
- Districts will participate in the design/development of the courses and have access to funded professional development for the teachers involved.

Pilot Site Selection

Working with statewide networks of educators in K-12 and higher education, *Core to College* is seeking to recruit by the end of March at least six pilot sites each for English and for math, with each site testing either a full course OR, if that’s not possible, specific modules from one or more of the courses based on the district’s needs. Sites do **not** have to pilot the courses in both English and math in order to participate in the pilot. Preference will be given to pilot sites with an existing partnership or connection involving an area college and representatives who have participated in Core to College activities. If your district is interested in participating, please contact Bill Moore (360-704-4346, bmoore@sbctc.edu) for details.

Expectations

Participating sites should:

1. Assemble a small team to collaborate on the local course implementation. Teams should consist of:
 - high school teacher/s planning to teach the course (required)
 - higher education faculty partner/s in the appropriate discipline (required)
 - a curriculum specialist (preferred)
 - someone with research expertise (preferred).
2. Commit to sending key members of the team to the April 15 course planning meeting in Seattle and the summer course development/training sessions [2 days in late June in Seattle, dates to be announced soon, and August 4-7 in Leavenworth].
3. Find space in the school schedule in the fall and/or spring terms to “test drive” the courses OR incorporate relevant modules into the existing course curriculum in a related course.
4. Recruit teachers to teach the course(s) who have experience with teaching to college-readiness levels.
5. Involve the high school principal at the pilot site to provide local oversight of the course implementation and

help evaluate each course's effectiveness.

6. Ensure that the pilot site team communicates regularly with C2C project staff, attends quarterly teacher training sessions, and participates in project-related pilot evaluation efforts.

Core to College will:

1. Work with the district, if needed, to identify higher education partners for the project work.
2. Coordinate and provide leadership for course training opportunities for all pilot sites.
3. Fund travel costs to course development and training gatherings.
4. Maintain web site for central clearinghouse of resources and teacher support for the pilot courses.
5. Organize regular communications with pilot sites and arrange for technical assistance as needed in the implementation process.
6. Arrange for and manage the overall evaluation process for the pilot implementation.

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