A FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DELIVERY

Core Strategies and Foundational Competencies Overview and Developmental Process

OVERVIEW OF ASAPconnect

ASAPconnect, formerly referred to as California After School Technical Assistance (CASTA), is a statewide technical assistance (TA) project, leveraged to provide strategic support to After School Education and Safety (ASES) and 21st Century Community Learning Center programs in California. ASAPconnect, a project of the Cooperative Research and Extension Services in Schools (CRESS) at the University of California at Davis, partners with key after school stakeholders across the state to build the capacity of TA providers to better support the diverse needs of after school programs in California.

TA CORE STRATEGIES AND FOUNDATIONAL COMPETENCIES OVERVIEW

Technical Assistance is ongoing needs-driven support for before & after school staff and stakeholders that strengthens quality programs.

Using this working definition, ASAPconnect developed a framework that defines key foundational competencies and core TA strategies that, together with a thorough assessment of client needs, leads to effective after school TA delivery. This framework and the corresponding documents will serve as a resource for professional growth and development for after school TA providers in the field.

The framework depicted in the attached chart demonstrates that all providers offering TA to after school programs should, ideally, be competent in all the foundational competencies.

Recognizing the importance of being responsive to the unique needs of each after school program served, a comprehensive needs assessment is critical to the effectiveness of the TA support offered.

Each core strategy is meant to stand alone and to represent what we believe are five of the most utilized strategies for providing TA to after school programs in California, including (1) providing and brokering resources; (2) providing coaching; (3) providing consultation; (4) providing mentoring; and (5) providing training. Each core strategy has a list of competencies that the field might expect of a provider offering that TA. We realize that some groups or organizations may, in fact, offer all of the listed core strategies. However, many TA providers offer only a few of the strategies or may be highly experienced in one area but less seasoned in other areas. By separating out the core strategies we can support TA Providers in identifying and strengthening the key competencies necessary for conducting each particular strategy.

TA providers who are competent in the three foundation competencies and utilize one or more core strategy with competence will lead to “Effective TA Delivery” as previously defined. It is ASAPconnect’s vision to build TA providers that achieve effective TA, with the ultimate goal of better supporting after school programs.
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FUTURE APPLICATIONS

The competencies will serve as a tool for after school TA providers by clearly defining these strategies, defining what it means to provide quality TA, and delineating the skill sets they need to possess and what knowledge they should master. These core competencies will drive all future work of ASAPconnect and give TA providers clear benchmarks to aim for, leading them to quality TA practices.

These documents have been produced with the input from various stakeholders throughout the state. It is the intent to utilize these in draft form through 2009, allowing the TA community to pilot them and provide further feedback.

FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS

ASAPconnect remains committed to working collaboratively with others and obtaining community participation throughout its efforts. To this end, ASAPconnect selected eight individuals with unique expertise to develop this framework and all corresponding documents. This work group was charged with setting quality standards or competencies corresponding to various TA strategies. This framework and all corresponding documents represents hours of hard work from the following individuals:

- Rocio Abundis-Rodriguez, ASAPconnect
- Katie Brackenridge, Bay Area Partnership
- Amy Christianson, Butte County Office of Education
- Stacey Dario, Community Network for Youth Development
- Alma Linares Franco, After School All Stars
- Gloria Halley, Butte County Office of Education
- Dina Hatchuel, Hatchuel, Tabernik and Associates
- Tia Quinn, Independent Consultant
- Jimena Quiroga, California Tomorrow
- Reba Rose, ASAPconnect