

August 6, 2018

Principals and Other School and School District Administrators and Personnel
California High Schools and School Districts

Subject: Implementing the CSU Expository Reading and Writing Course

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for offering the California State University's (CSU) Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) at your school and school district. I am writing today to update you on exciting course developments and to provide important reminders about course requirements.

The CSU is currently working with high schools in California and Washington to pilot the **third edition of the curriculum** as a part of two federal grants: the Investing in Innovation (i3) Validation grant (in conjunction with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools) and the National Professional Development grant. The new edition of the curriculum will include a year-long course for both grades 11 and 12. Designed to address all California English Language Arts/Literacy Standards, the curriculum incorporates literature and informational text and a wide range of activities to support integrated English language development (ELD), Universal Design for Learning, formative assessment, and more. In addition, four modules per grade at grades 9-12 have been developed to include both integrated and designated ELD based on the California ELD Standards.

Importantly, the curriculum continues to emphasize the integration of interactive reading and writing processes; a rhetorical, inquiry-based approach that fosters critical thinking; themes that engage student interest; and a student-centered approach that supports student agency and metacognition. We are very proud that the final evaluation of our last i3 grant was recognized as one of nine in the nation (from a total of 67) that "had both tight implementation and strong positive effects" ([Sparks](#), 2018). Our aim is to replicate those findings with these new grants. When piloting is complete in 2018-19, we expect to release the new curriculum to implementing schools in the summer of 2019. Your teachers may want to attend our annual ERWC Leadership Conference in June in Southern or Northern California to learn more. Please visit the [ERWC Online Community](#) for ongoing announcements.

As the school year gets underway, I would like to offer **several reminders** about the course currently available for grade 12. The ERWC is one component of the CSU's Early Assessment Program (EAP) and is approved as a college-preparatory English course satisfying the "b" English subject requirement for admission into the CSU and the University of California (UC). The official course name for adopting schools is *CSU Expository Reading and Writing*. Your students' transcripts need to reflect this title (or the abbreviation ERWC) in order for them to take full advantage of the benefits of passing the course with a C- or better in terms of their placement in first-year composition in the CSU and participating community colleges. Even though the CSU now uses multiple measures to place students, taking the ERWC still accords benefits to students

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

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whose test scores and grade point averages fall within specified ranges. For more information on the CSU's changing policies in academic preparation, please contact your [local EAP coordinator](#).

Grade 12 English language arts teachers need to be certified to teach ERWC. They become certified by attending 24 hours of professional learning (four days). Please check the Workshop Schedule on the ERWC Online Community for a calendar of offerings and registration. These workshops are free of charge; however, the school district is responsible for providing release time and teacher substitutes.

The ERWC needs to be uploaded to the [UC's A-G Course Management Portal](#) each year via the CSU's Program Status. The ERWC is also approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association as a core course in English. By uploading the course, you agree that the course will be implemented as designed. Currently eight full modules, including two full-length works, comprise the year-long course. These requirements will change when the third edition is implemented.

Please ensure that course enrollments in the ERWC are reported to the California Department of Education each October using the CALPADS Course Code 2118. This is critically important to ensure the accuracy of ERWC enrollments. Our examination of current data reveals that ERWC enrollments are generally underreported; schools tend to report students as enrolled in English 12 or English 4 courses rather than the ERWC. You may need to work with the data specialists in your district office to determine how the course is being reported within your student information system and to make any needed changes.

We appreciate your commitment to the ERWC and trust that it will help you and your teachers achieve our shared goal of preparing your students to meet the academic literacy demands of college and other postsecondary education. For assistance related to course requirements, the CSU's academic preparation policies, the upcoming third edition, or other questions, please contact your local EAP coordinator. Please also consult the ERWC Online Community (<https://writing.csusuccess.org>) and the CSU Chancellor's Office Web site (<http://calstate.edu/eap/englishcourse/>).

Sincerely,



Nancy Brynelson, Co-Director