

Engage Families at Student Conferences

By Ilissa Twomey

Conferencing with parents and students is a valuable tool in many ways, including as an opportunity to discuss the importance of regular attendance. Parents and students may not realize that even excused absences can add up. Looking at attendance during a conference allows for time to take stock of how many absences have taken

place up to that point and whether too much academic time has been missed, beginning a two-way dialogue with parents to acknowledge good or improved attendance and identifying barriers. The following guidelines might help in tailoring a conversation about attendance:

Student-led conferences are a great way to facilitate meaningful conversation about academics, behavior and attendance. Several schools in Inyo county have moved toward the student-led conferencing approach where teachers move into the facilitator role and students become the leader of the conference. "HSMS has noticed an increase in parent attendance with this model. All students and parents have the opportunity to participate and discuss the student's learning," says Pat Twomey, principal. By putting the focus on the student, the process promotes reflection. Jan Hart, middle school teacher in Big Pine, shared that kids taking ownership of their learning is key. Secondary students at Big Pine answer the question: What do you bring to the school community? "The students' answers are very informative to the teacher and the kids find some-

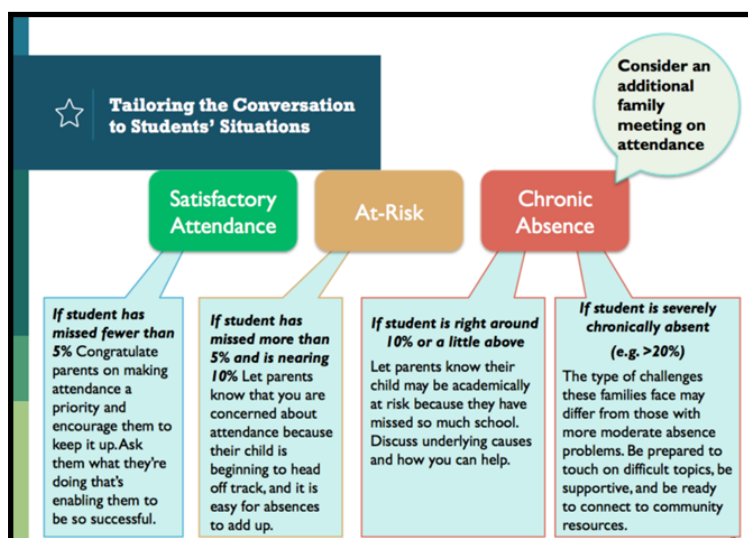
thing valuable in themselves." While the initial time investment may seem daunting, teachers report satisfaction with this model once it's established. For more information on student-led conferencing please see the following resources:

[A Guide to Student-Led Conferencing](#)

[Student-Led Conferences: Resources for Educators](#)

[Leaders of Their Own Learning](#) (Expeditionary Learning Resource)

For more resources on effective messaging and building positive relationships, including parent handouts and infographics, see the [Attendance Works website](#).



ELPAC to Replace CELDT: What this Means to You

By Tiffany Randall

This school-year, California schools will be transitioning from the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC); there are several positive changes:

1. There are now two separate assessments, one for initial identification (IA) and an annual summative (SA)
2. Testing time has been moved from July-October (CELDT) to February-May (ELPAC), allowing for more pre-test instructional time

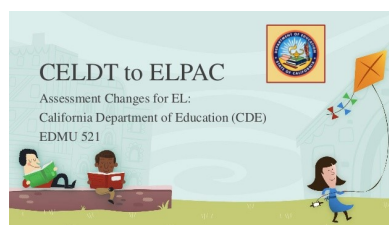
3. The ELPAC is aligned with the 2012 ELD Standards, the 2010 Common Core State Standards, and the NGSS
4. There are now seven grade spans instead of five, allowing the assessments to closely connect with grade-level standards and expectations

The task types remain the same: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The information gained from these assessments is very valuable and should be used to guide instruction for English-learners. For more information, please

take a look at the practice tests on the ELPAC website:

<https://www.elpac.org/resources/practicetests/>

Please let trandall@icsos.us know if you have any questions and/or comments about the ELPAC and/or ways to support English-learners.



Save the Date!

WRITING CONTEST
OCTOBER 30—DECEMBER 1
6th—8th Grade

SPELLING BEE
JANUARY 18, 2018
4th—8th Grade
Jill Kinmont Boothe School

POETRY OUT LOUD
FEBRUARY 1, 2018—6PM
9th-12th Grade
Inyo Council for the Arts

SCIENCE FAIR
FEBRUARY 6, 2018
4th-12th Grade
Tri-County Fairgrounds

SPEECH CONTEST
APRIL 11, 2018
6th-8th Grade
Jill Kinmont Boothe School

COLLEGE AND CAREER DAY
APRIL 27, 2018
5th Grade
Cerro Coso College, Bishop

Local Science and Engineering Fairs Take Place in 2018

By Lo Lyness

Inyo County's Science and Engineering Fair will take place on February 6th, 2018 at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop, in the Home Economics building. During the day, local scientists will judge students' entries, including conducting interviews with secondary students (6th grade and above) in the afternoon. At 6:00, the public is invited to view the projects, and the awards ceremony takes place at 6:30. In preparation for the County Science Fair, participating schools will hold their own fairs. Winners of the school fairs participate in the County fair, from which top projects are eligible to participate in the regional fair in San Bernardino on April 3. This year students from Round Valley Elementary, Bishop Elementary, Home Street Middle, Big Pine, Owens Valley and Lone Pine schools will be participating.



Writing Contest Underway

By Tiffany Randall

This year's ICSOS Middle School Writing Contest is an opportunity for students to question and appreciate the world around them while connecting with, learning about, and writing an essay on the important work of a scientist in our community. The writing prompt is: **How does a local scientist contribute to our community and the larger scientific community?** Scientists are ready to be interviewed by students or even participate in a field trip.

Each teacher may submit five top essays per grade level; there will be two winning essays per

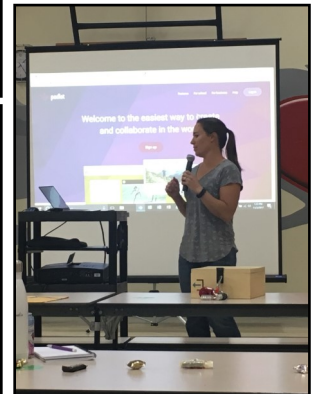
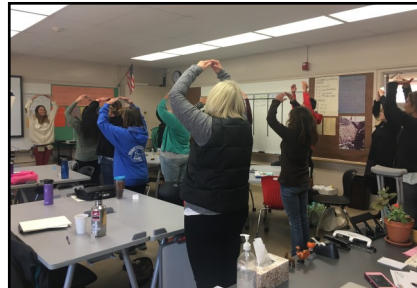
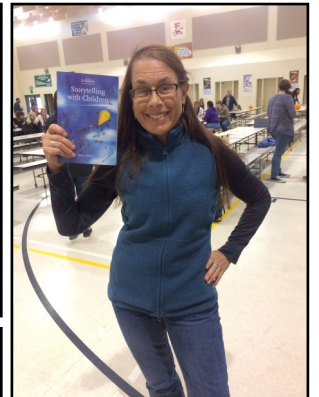
grade level for the county contest. Winning essays will be featured on the front page of the Inyo Register, and will receive a \$50 award from Bishop Sunrise Rotary Club. We hope that this topic sparks interest for students in the realm of STEAM pathways, and also gives students some new insight in preparing for the upcoming Science Fair and Speech Contest. For more information, please contact trandyall@icsos.us or see the writing contest [website](#) here.



FALL CONFERENCE: CONNECTING TEACHERS

On November 3rd, ICSOS offered a conference style event for the fall countywide professional learning day. Resources for each session are now posted on the [WEBSITE](#)

<https://goo.gl/p96Hcs>



2017 California History Social Science Adopted Materials Review

By Lo Lyness

The California State Board of Education has just adopted new History Social Science materials! The ICSOS Curriculum and Instruction department will be acquiring review materials over the next month, and will be facilitating formal review meetings during the winter for any district that wishes to participate. If you're a history-lover and would like to serve on a review team, contact your site administrator.

The newly adopted History Social Science Framework can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/sbedraftssfw.asp>. We recommend that teachers read at least

the Framework Introduction before beginning to review materials, as it explains the four components of a well-rounded history-social science education. Given that the new Framework emphasizes in incorporation of an inquiry approach to instruction and a connection to the new Common Core standards for literacy development, teacher-reviewers will be looking for how these shifts appear in the instructional materials they review.