

# ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES

## Fresno Unified School District

**Mission:** All students will be College and Career Ready Graduates

**Vision:** All students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options

**Values:** Culture of learning and high expectations

**Core Belief:** Every student can and must learn at grade level and beyond

**Our Guarantee/Goal:** Every student moving a minimum of a grade level each year

**District Performance Indicators:** School Quality Improvement Index and Targeted Action Index to ensure coherence, clarity and focus to impact student outcomes

## Each School Implements the Foundation Elements to Ensure a Culture of Learning with High Expectations

The Accountable Community Model is a well proven researched based strategy to build capacity in educators with direct impact on student learning for every student. The foundation of the Accountable Communities rests upon the four pillars of mission, vision, values and goals that drive the daily workings of the school and align practices.

### Accountable Community

<p><b>Culture</b> A cohesive school organized into interdependent collaborative teams united by an Accountable Community (AC) foundation with a shared mission, vision, values, and goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do we exist? What is our fundamental purpose? (Mission)</li> <li>• What must our school become to accomplish our purpose? What is our compelling future? (Vision)</li> <li>• How must we behave to achieve our vision? What are our collective commitments? (Values)</li> <li>• How will we mark our progress? What are our targets and timelines? (Goals)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definition of an AC</b> An <b>ongoing process</b> in which educators work <b>collaboratively</b> in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better <b>results</b> for the students they serve. PLC(AC) operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous, job-embedded learning for educators (<i>DuFour, DuFour, Eaker, &amp; Many</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What action research is the team exploring and utilizing?</li> <li>• How will/do we encourage risk-taking and reflection to support and target actions to impact student learning for every student?</li> <li>• How will we continue to strive to strengthen and support systems and structures to support a frequent on-going continuous cycle of learning?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Essential Components of an Effective Accountable Community (Foundations)</b> Accountable Community members work interdependently to achieve common goals for which members are mutually accountable. DuFour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Four guiding questions</b> are the focus to learn in collaborative teams and take collective responsibility for student learning</li> <li>• <b>AC Agenda Framework</b></li> <li>• <b>Content focuses on student learning</b> by implementing a guaranteed and viable curriculum (standard aligned curriculum) and <b>using an on-going assessment process</b> that includes frequent, team-developed common formative assessments</li> <li>• <b>Intervention and enrichment</b> are provided through a multi-tiered AC/School <b>systematic</b> support with flexible grouping in real time</li> <li>• <b>Professional learning</b> is pre-determined/pre-assessed by the teams and leaders <b>using the results of common assessments</b></li> <li>• <b>Lessons and assessments published monthly</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four guiding questions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What do we want students to learn?</li> <li>○ How will we know they learned it?</li> <li>○ How will we respond when they don't learn?</li> <li>○ How will we respond when they already learned it?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How do we create the agenda, so we turn what we know from the results of the common formative assessments into actions for every student?</li> <li>• How do we ensure the curriculum addresses challenging content in every classroom by using the standards to determine priorities (focus/anchor standards)?</li> <li>• How do we use the results to inform our students and our team of next steps to change current conditions?</li> <li>• How will gaps in knowledge of classroom practice /foundations be addressed through job embedded PL?</li> <li>• How will the results be used to build team's capacity to achieve SMART goals?</li> <li>• How will we share our lessons and assessments?</li> <li>• Does our decision making process involve such things as data analysis, examination of exemplars, cause/gap analysis, intervention/initiative selection, implementation plan, evaluation plan, and determination of PL needs?</li> </ul>

**CLASSROOM**

Each classroom creates the learning conditions where students are engaged with relevant, challenging content, and taking ownership for their learning.

1. **Objective** – kid friendly, academic language, focused on challenging content aligned to grade level standards  
*(What will student know, understand and be able to do? How does this lesson integrate grade level standards? How does the content of this lesson reflect the shifts required by the Common Core State Standards?)*
2. **Instruction aligned to objectives**  
*(How do instructional activities align to objectives? How does the lesson employ instructional practices that allow students to learn the content of the lesson? How does the lesson employ questions and tasks which integrate the standards and build students' comprehension? Are students responsible for the thinking?)*
3. **Closure**  
*(How do you close your lesson to build on what students know and need to be able to do? How does the closure help students demonstrate how well they understood the lesson content?)*
4. **Assessment**  
*(How do you determine if students are “getting it”? How do you monitor and adjust? Are students demonstrating their learning or understanding to achieve learning outcomes? Are students reflecting and assessing their learning?)*

**ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES**

An AC is composed of collaborative teams whose members work interdependently to achieve common goals for which members are mutually accountable. DuFour

1. **Four guiding questions** are the focus to learn in collaborative teams and take collective responsibility for student learning
  - a. *What do we want students to learn? (guaranteed and viable curriculum unit by unit -team commits to the priorities)*
  - b. *How will we know they learned it? (frequent team developed common formative assessments with district/state assessments)*
  - c. *How will we respond when they don't learn? (timely, by student - by specific need based on state standards in a systematic approach)*
  - d. *How will we respond when they already learned it? (same as c)*
2. **AC Agenda Framework**  
*(What are the components for every meeting? How do we create the agenda, so we turn what we know from the results of the common formative assessments into actions for every student?)*
3. **Content focuses on student learning** by implementing a guaranteed and viable curriculum (standard aligned curriculum) and on-going assessment practices that include frequent, team-developed **common formative assessments**  
*(How will we ensure the curriculum addresses challenging content in every classroom by using the standards to determine priorities? How do we use the results to inform our students and our team of next steps to change current conditions?)*
4. **Intervention and enrichment** are provided through multi-tiered AC/School **systematic** support with flexible grouping  
*(How will we use the results of the common assessments to intervene/enrich in real time on behalf of students in a by-student, by-need systematic process)*
5. **Professional learning** is pre-determined/pre-assessed by the teams and leaders **using results of common assessments**  
*(How will gaps in knowledge of classroom practice /foundations be addressed through job embedded PL? How will the results be used to build team's capacity to achieve SMART goals?)*
6. **Lessons and assessments published monthly**  
*(How will we share our lessons and assessments?)*