

Center on Standards, Alignment, Instruction, and Learning (C-SAIL)

Importance and Purpose of C-SAIL

Funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education), the Center on Standards, Alignment, Instruction, and Learning (C-SAIL) aims to address some of the most pressing questions about the implementation of standards. To this end, we are conducting a survey in five partner states -- California, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Texas -- to learn how educators understand their state's standards, what supports are provided for implementation, what are challenges to implementation, and how teachers have changed their instruction to address the standards. C-SAIL is exploring how standards-based instruction is impacting students of all achievement levels, and students with disabilities (SWDs) and English Language Learners (ELLs).

C-SAIL Survey

The survey includes 50 districts in each state and, on average, 2 elementary and 2 high schools in each district. In addition to surveying a leader in each district, the C-SAIL team will ask the principal and six teachers to complete the survey in each sampled school, including two mathematics, two English language arts, 1 special education, and 1 teacher of English language learners. The surveys will be administered online and take 30 minutes to complete. C-SAIL will provide a modest incentive to teachers who complete the survey. Participation is voluntary and all individual responses will be confidential.

Benefits of Participation

By completing the survey, educators will have an opportunity to reflect on their implementation of standards and on how implementation has strengthened student learning and changed their practice. C-SAIL will share the aggregated findings with policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders in each state (individuals and districts will not be identified in reports). Reports for each state will describe the level of implementation of the state's college- and career-ready standards and examine the relationship between implementation and student learning. Based on previous experience, we anticipate learning about the creative and innovative methods teachers are using to implement standards, and districts and schools are supporting those innovations; we will share these results in reports that draw lessons from across the states.

For more information about the implementation study or C-SAIL in general, please contact Dr. Marlene Darwin (mdarwin@air.org, 202-403-5395).