



SAS Scavenger Hunt and Self-Assessment
Mentor Training for School/District Teams in the ITQ Program:
Instructional Leadership and the Application of SAS



Goals of this Activity:

- To increase your familiarity with PDE's new Standards Aligned System (SAS) Portal,
- To offer an opportunity for self-reflection on specific areas in SAS that need additional review and deeper engagement, and
- To build your capacity to support a team's action plans on their integration of SAS.

Introduction:

Please log on to the SAS Portal at <http://www.pdesas.org/>. This will take you to the 7 Circle icons that align 6 circles with Student Achievement in the center. If you have not established an account and log-in, please complete that now by clicking on the "Login" at the top of the page.

Now, place your mouse over each of the 6 outer circles. This will give you an overview and a sense of the connectiveness in this relational database. As you hover over Clear Standards, please pay careful attention to the description of an anchor and eligible content and how they relate to the PSSA test. From the beginning you can sense the language-enriched, student-focused, accessible tool we will be exploring. The curriculum notebooks that have been sitting on shelves in your districts are now on every teacher's computer with tools that will engage them with a standards-aligned system for improving student learning. Enjoy your exploration and please assess your understanding at the end of each section.

SAS Scavenger Hunt

1. Click on the Clear Standards circle. Using the search drop-down, select 11th grade as the grade level and choose Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening as the subject area. Click Search. Notice the depth of detail or drill down effect from the global Subject Area 1: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening to the more detailed anchors that drill down deeper to the eligible content.

What is the description for the R11.A.1.1.1 eligible content? _____

2. Now choose a different subject area and grade level. Make a note of things you noticed or want to check on at a later date. _____

3. Return to the top of the page and choose Algebra II from the Select a Course drop-down. What is the description for the A2.1.1.2.1 eligible content? _____

4. Return to the top and choose World History 1450 to Present under select a course. Notice there is no eligible content. Only subjects having a PSSA test have eligible content. It is the eligible content that is used to write the test questions. What is the description for standard 5.3.W.J? _____

5. Return to the top of the page and click on "Vertical Viewer." Click on Mathematics and then standard area 2.1 (Numbers...) Click back and forth between "See Grades K-3, 3-8, and 8-12." Notice the progression of the sophistication of a concept and skills within the standards across the grade levels.

6. Return to the top of the page and click "Browse Standards." Choose one of these content areas and open it. Make a note of a school-wide area of focus to research that you may find helpful.

7. Return to the top of the page and click on "Download PDF's." What two areas have educators requested to download - _____ and _____

Please note: If you are familiar with one of the anchor documents, some of the numbering, wording etc. has changed with some anchors/eligible content. Use the information from the SAS site only. Don't use the information from the anchor document.

8. Return to the top of the page and click on "Unpacking the Anchors." Do a search using the tools in this section. Select a description and then click on the Assessment Anchor. On the next screen dig down one more layer until you reach 'Skills'. How could a teacher use this search option?

9. Finally, go back to the top and click on "Common Core." The SAS Portal is used to provide the most current and accurate information for educators. It is always being updated and is a dynamic resource. What was the last posting on the Common Core Standards posted in this section based on the work of The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA)?

Date _____

10. Return to the top of page and click on the "second circle" tab - Fair Assessments. Please read over the description of each assessment. What do you currently administer/could you administer to meet all 4 assessments?

Summative _____

Formative _____

Benchmark _____

Diagnostic _____

11. Return to the top and click on the "Keystone Exams." Read the Fact Sheet and write one question you might have on these new tests: _____

This section is kept current and is a great resource for answering questions and using as a reference for teachers and parents.

12. Return to the top and click on "Assessment Creator." This is the section that allows teachers to build their own assessments and drop them into their e-Portfolio or personal files created for them on the SAS portal. The need for teachers to use flash-drives and e-mailing resources and classroom activities to themselves is over – they can just download files to their e-Portfolio. Once a teacher creates an assessment what two ways can they save their work?

As a _____ and _____

13. The last two tabs under Fair Assessments explore resources like sample PSSA questions and they introduce a diagnostic testing tool that is being finalized for classroom teachers. How could you encourage teachers to explore these areas in your school and district?

14. Return and click on "third circle" Curriculum Framework. Select Environment and Ecology in Grade 8 – and search. Click on first Big Idea. Note the drilling down from Big Idea to Essential Question to Concepts and Competencies and their matching standards/eligible content.

Click on the other Big Ideas to get a sense of the structure of this part of the site. What is listed on the far right side of the chart?

Answer _____

15. Now please go back to the Curriculum Framework, click on the ELL Overlay tab, and explore one of the two academic areas. How could all teachers use this with students and support staff?

16. Finally click on the last tab in this area – “Content Pages.” Explore three different areas, click on some of the pictures and PDF’s, and review the overview that each section offers. What, if anything, impresses you about this area of SAS?

17. Click on the “fourth circle” Instruction. Please note the various video clips offered in this section. Take the time to view at least one video. How could use these resources be used with a first year teacher or at a faculty meeting?

18. Note the Instruction Strategy Documents at the bottom of this page and also the Related Instructional Resources. Name one you could use and how you would use it:

19. Click on "fifth circle"- Resources and Materials and type in 'frogs' as the keyword and choose 10th grade from the drop down menu and search. Find the Video Icon and scroll down to the Spring Peepers – click on resource. What resources did you find at the end of the section?

20. The last two tabs under Resources and Materials offer samples of the units and lesson plans which comprise the Voluntary Model Curriculum (VMC) and a view of the Learning Progressions needed in certain core areas. Go into each area and explore what has been included.

How do the color codes in the Learning Progressions connect back to the VMC?

21. Please click on the last area or circle in SAS – "Interventions." A comprehensive list of resources that provide teachers for interventions for students has been compiled in one place as a reference for educators. Please explore three resources and note where you searched.

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22. Please go back to the "Home Page" and at the top click on "Teacher Tools". There are four areas for educators to use:

The 'My Profile' is where your login information and password information is stored for you.

The 'My e-Portfolio' is where you can store documents, assessments, and other resources you can use in your planning and teaching.

The 'My Website' is where every teacher can create their own website for their classes and parents to use.

Have you created your own e-Portfolio file with resources you placed in your portfolio? _____

Have you created your own website for announcements and information? _____

23. Please click on 'My Communities.' This is where educators across the Commonwealth can create SAS Learning Communities or Networks to share information and dialogue on a wide range of subjects. Click on the 'My Communities' then click on "Browse Communities, Forums, and Blogs."

Please join an open Community that interests you and see what has been posted. Districts are using these SAS LC's to share and learn about integrating SAS across the curriculum, especially the districts involved with the SAS Leadership Cohorts.

What communities or forums could you see using with this tool? _____

24. Last stop on our scavenger hunt and exploration. Please go back to the home page. On the top right is the 'Help' tab – please click it and explore what is available. Look at the FAQ's – they are a big help in the last section we just explored.

Now go back to the home page and look at the very bottom of the page. On the left side you will see a listing of the most recent updates to the portal and on the right side current data on the use and users on SAS. At the center of the bottom page is a small tab that says "About SAS" – please click on that. The second tab is called "Related SAS Materials." Please list one item that is found there and explain what relevance it has for you.

Congratulations on completing your exploration and hunt of the SAS Portal!

The SAS Portal is a work in progress and new features and information are being added each week. There are also many training opportunities available. Just contact PDE or the SAS Help Desk for updates.