



Strengthening the Capacity of 21st Century Leaders and Learners

A Question and Answer Document

Question: *What does S/CDN stand for?*

Answer: S/CDN stands for Staff and Curriculum Development Network.

Question: *What is S/CDN?*

Answer: S/CDN is a self-sustaining statewide network representing BOCES and the Big Five that collaborates with the State Education Department on issues related to standards, curriculum, assessment, professional development, school improvement, and on areas related to the Board of Regents and Commissioner's Education Reform initiatives.

Question: *What is the mission of S/CDN?*

Answer: The mission of S/CDN is to strengthen the capacity of school districts to promote successful attainment of the New York State Standards by all students.

Question: *What are the goals of S/CDN?*

Answer: The goals of S/CDN are to:

- Enhance communication among BOCES/Large City School Districts and the State Education Department by sharing information and resources with each other and local school districts.
- Support student learning through quality curriculum, staff and organizational development.
- Collaborate with the State Education Department in planning and implementing curriculum, instruction and assessment through capacity building initiatives.
- Provide professional development leadership.
- Network with other professional organizations.

Question: *Who are the members of SCDN?*

Answer: S/CDN membership is comprised of one representative from each BOCES/Large City School District. Alternate or additional staff may attend S/CDN quarterly meetings from each BOCES or Large City School District, with the understanding that only the appointed member may vote. Correspondence and invitations will be sent to a variety of different organizations at the discretion of the S/CDN Executive Committee.

Question: *What is the representation and support for the Big Five (Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers)?*

Answer: The Big Five Superintendents appoint representatives to S/CDN. Alternates or additional staff may attend S/CDN quarterly meetings from each of the Big Five Districts, with the understanding that only the appointed member may vote.

Question: *How are votes conducted by S/CDN?*

Answer: A quorum of 75% of the membership must be present to hold a vote. Voting is handled by consensus of the members present, unless a controversial issue exists; then a majority (51%) of the members passes the issue.

Question: *When does S/CDN meet?*

Answer: S/CDN meets quarterly. Meetings are typically held on Thursdays (full day meeting) and Fridays (1/2 day meeting). Quarterly meetings are held mid-September, early December, early March, and early June. Breakfast and lunch are provided day one, and breakfast is provided day 2. Cost of meals are included in the participant registration fee. Dinner is on your own.

Question: *Where does S/CDN meet?*

Answer: S/CDN meets at the Marriott Albany on 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York, 12205. For information and directions visit <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/albny-albany-marriott/> .

Question: *What is the cost of being a member?*

Answer: All fees/costs (including travel and hotel accommodations) associated with participation in S/CDN are the responsibilities of the assigned representative/alternate/guest. Registration rates for S/CDN representatives/members and for SED networks and staff and professional affiliations are established by the Executive Committee on an annual basis. 2010-2011 registration fees ran between \$475.00 and \$600.00 for the year.

Question: *How do members of S/CDN communicate between quarterly meetings?*

Answer: Members of S/CDN communicate via a listserv established and maintained by S/CDN's SED Liaison, Laura Miller. The designated BOCES/Big Five representative is automatically added to the listserv. One other individual per BOCES/Big City may also be added to the listserv. For questions related to the S/CDN listserv, you may contact your Executive Committee representative or contact S/CDN SED Liaison, Laura Miller, at lmiller@mail.nysed.gov .

Question: *How is leadership for S/CDN provided?*

Answer: S/CDN is divided into Joint Management Team (JMT) regions. An Executive Committee is established each term per the S/CDN By-Laws to provide leadership for S/CDN. One voting member representing each JMT is voted by the JMT to serve on the Executive Committee. One voting member representing the Large City School Districts/Big Five is voted to serve on the Executive Committee. State Education Department personnel are invited to serve as non-voting members on the Executive Committee. Each Executive Committee representative services two (2) two year terms, with half of the terms expiring each June. New Executive Committee representatives are elected by the JMT region at the March S/CDN meeting. Executive Committee officers include Chair, Vice-Chair for Program, and Vice-Chair for Operations (budget, membership, and registration). The Chair, Vice-Chair for Program, and Vice-Chair for Operations are elected by the Executive Committee by a majority and may serve for up to two, two-year terms provided they are re-elected to the Executive Committee by the JMT/Big Five.

Question: *What does the Executive Committee do?*

Answer: The Executive Committee provides leadership for S/CDN by planning, implementing, and evaluating S/CDN meetings, serving as liaisons to State Education Department representatives, and overseeing the S/CDN budget.

Question: *When does the Executive Committee meet?*

Answer: The Executive Committee meets regularly throughout the year. While adjusted to meet the scheduling needs of current Executive Committee members, the Executive Committee meets

immediately prior to or following each S/CDN meeting. A breakfast meeting is held the morning prior to day one of each S/CDN for the purpose of meeting with State Education Department representatives. The Executive Committee meets an additional two times per year for mid-winter and summer retreats for in-depth planning purposes. Meetings may be held in person or via conference calls. Ongoing communication is encouraged through an Executive Committee listserv.

Question: *Where are the Executive Committee meetings held?*

Answer: Meetings of the Executive Committee are held in Albany, usually at the Marriot Conference Center on Wolf Road. Other meetings, as needed, are conducted via conference calling technology.

Question: *How do I find out who my Executive Committee representative is and how to contact him/her?*

Answer: To learn who your Executive Committee representation is and how to contact him/her, go to <http://scdn.wsboces.org/>. On the right hand side of the S/CDN home page you will find the Executive Committee membership as well as each Executive Committee member's contact information. Further down on that same side you will also find the complete S/CDN Directory.

Question: *What is the relationship between SED and S/CDN?*

Answer: S/CDN works in close partnership with State Education Department officials. SED representatives attend Executive Committee meetings to assist with the identification of SED priorities/issues and strategize around how S/CDN can assist the Department with those priorities. SED officials have also committed to regularly attend and share information at quarterly S/CDN meetings. SED officials are on the S/CDN listserv and are active in responding to members' questions and requests for information in that venue. To insure ongoing communication with SED officials, SED has assigned a staff member to serve as Liaison to S/CDN. That staff member is Laura Miller and she attends all Executive Committee meetings and S/CDN meetings.

Question: *What is the role/responsibility of S/CDN members in the local region and the state?*

Answer: The role and responsibility of each S/CDN member in the local BOCES/Big City region is to represent the region in network conversations around issues regarding standards, curriculum, assessment, professional development, and school improvement and, upon returning to the region, disseminate information and resources shared at S/CDN with the field. Occasionally, S/CDN members will be asked to serve on various committees/workgroups established by SED partners. Those members will be asked to report to S/CDN on the process and outcomes of that work.

Question: *How can I learn more about S/CDN and the work conducted by S/CDN?*

Answer: For more information, contact your Executive Committee representative, or visit <http://scdn.wsboces.org/>. All presentations and information shared at each S/CDN meeting are posted on the S/CDN listserv, as well as the S/CDN website.