

Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program (BTSA)

The Tulare Joint Union High School District began participating in the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program (BTSA) during the 1998-1999 school year. At that time, the program was part of the Tulare County BTSA program. In the spring of 1999, the District formed a consortium with the Tulare City Elementary School District. The consortium continues to provide training to new teachers in our District.

Support providers participate in five days of training on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession and the California Formative Assessment and Support System for Teachers. Support Providers attend monthly networking meetings to support their work with new teachers. New teachers participating in the BTSA program receive professional development opportunities designed to address individual growth needs including: individual support and assessment throughout their first two years, release time to observe other teachers, a week of professional development prior to the beginning of the school year where they are introduced to district philosophies, curriculum standards and materials, a confidential relationship with a support provider, access to a professional development library, opportunities to attend conferences and workshops and \$200 to support professional development goals.

Peer Assistance and Review Program (PAR)

The district's Peer Assistance and Review program (PAR) program provides support to new teachers in the district who do not qualify for the BTSA program and veteran teachers who are in need of additional assistance. PAR consulting teachers must meet required district criteria and attend training. They receive a \$1000 per semester stipend. A seven-member districtwide PAR panel comprised of teachers and site and district administrators meets quarterly to review the effectiveness and general operations of both the BTSA and PAR program.