

## Partnership with Sobrato Early Academic Language Model

### San Rafael City Schools

All Schools PK-3

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*A PK-3 model to build the capacity of schools to develop language and literacy skills of young English learners to close academic achievement gap.*



The Sobrato Early Academic Language Model (SEAL) was designed by Dr. Laurie Olsen, a national leader in language acquisition and instruction for English Language Learners. These research based strategies, including explicit language instruction, a text-rich environment, integrated thematic instruction, and more support all learners, especially English Language Learners.

San Rafael City Schools has been in partnership with SEAL for the past five years. Through our

partnership, all PK-3 teachers have the opportunity to go through SEAL professional development. This robust professional development is over a two year period and is supported by modeling, coaching, planning days and more. It has allowed for these powerful strategies to grow year after year as practitioners refine their teaching and for students to be taught in this way from year to year.

With our elementary schools being about 50% English Language Learners and the historical gaps in student achievement between English Language Learners and English Only students, SRCS is continually focused on support all learners, particularly our English Language Learners. This partnership with SEAL is one of the ways we are doing this. We are seeing exciting shifts in teaching practice as a result. Teachers report that this job-embedded professional development has assisted them in transforming their classroom instruction.

