

Phase 1: Getting Ready.

Hi, I'm James McKenna and on behalf of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, I'd like to welcome you to the first phase of your UDL implementation journey. The whole UDL community is super glad you're here. Full disclosure, this journey won't always be easy. There will be many twists and turns, ups and downs. We want to be honest with you about this from the start. And remember, the goal is to never stop learning. Goal setting, iteration, revision, and asking for help within physical and virtual UDL communities should start to become everyday practices, even at these earlier stages in your journey.

To begin implementation planning, both your district and school teams will benefit from using CAST's UDL School Implementation and Certification Criteria, UDL-SICC, to conduct a comprehensive review of their current UDL implementation practices. Reviewing the UDL-SICC domains and elements helps your teams develop a common understanding of what it takes to build effective school-wide UDL implementation. The UDL-SICC is structured around four educational domains; school culture and environment, teaching and learning, leadership and management, and professional learning. Each domain is further defined by four elements. These elements and domains provide a comprehensive organizational structure for guiding school-wide UDL implementation.

Because the development and maintenance of UDL practice and mindset is so personal and contextual, the school, team, and classroom are essential levels of intervention. The district's role is to create the necessary conditions in each of these domains and beyond, to support school-wide implementation and to help school teams use the UDL-SICC to develop school implementation goals and plans. Because of this, you will see the domains and elements referenced throughout to ensure that district changes are focused on creating conditions to support school-wide implementation.

As part of the first phase of implementation, you should conduct a needs assessment. You're establishing what is, what should be, and the difference between the two. You'll need a team to gather, analyze, and share data in a variety of areas and ways in order to establish what is. You'll also need to develop a shared vision for what could be an inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. This will also be how you source your theory of action regarding the strategies you're putting in place to move UDL forward. What will that look like, sound like, feel like? How will you know when you're there? And how can implementing UDL help you get there? These are the questions that you'll need to answer so that you can gather the necessary people to your cause and move to the next phase, setting clear expectations and planning how to meet them.