

Abdul Issa

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Education

PhD University of California at San Diego (Expected 2026)

Education Studies

MA California State University-Dominguez (2017)

School Leadership

BA California State University-Long Beach (2005)

English

California State University-Dominguez Hills (Spring 2018-Spring 2019)

Administrative Clear Credential Program

California State University-Dominguez Hills (Fall 2016-Summer 2017)

School Leadership Program-Preliminary Administrative Credential.

California State University-Dominguez Hills (2012-2015)

Special Education Internship Program (Mild/Moderate), Preliminary and Clear Credential.

California State University-Long Beach (2000-2005)

English Major: Writing Concentration.

Work Experience

APEX Academy Middle and High School 2019-2021

Co-Principal

- Oversaw instruction, curriculum, Special Education and SEL/Trauma-Informed Care.
- Planned and presented all PD's.
- Coached teaching and support staff.
- Created collaboration communication systems to ensure teacher efficacy and agency.
- Strategically planned mandates and initiatives to maximize learning and diminish disruption. •

Individually coached and developed teachers.

- Read, studied, developed individual and team leadership.
- Differentiated PD based on needs.
- Created multiple levels of leadership (Houses, lead teachers, content PLC's).
- Systematized teaching, learning and social-emotional best practices and interventions.

California State University Dominguez Hills 2018-Present

Adjunct Professor

- Teaches Conflict Resolution in Schools in the Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding Program (NCR 543). •
- Taught Ethical Leadership in the School Leadership Program (SLP 555).
- Built and delivered curriculum.

- Operated courses on Blackboard.

Kory Hunter Middle School 2017-2019

Assistant Principal

- Coached, observed and evaluated cohorts of teachers each semester.
- Organized MTSS.
- Developed new teachers.
- Built, oversaw and managed Culture and Behavioral Teams that implemented a Restorative and MTSS aligned intervention model.
- Handled all tier 3 behaviors and parent meetings.
- Led the WASC team.
- Trained staff in Restorative Practices.
- Responsible for crafting the school's vision and mission.
- Led the School Safety and Supervision Teams.
- Held all 8th grade meetings with parents.
- Held monthly coffee events with parents.
- Taught tier 3 intervention courses.
- Led the Special Education department.
- Head of Operations and Emergency Drills.
- Ran PLC's for Electives and PE.

Luskin HS and Kory Hunter MS 2016-2017

Dean of Students

- At both Luskin and then at Kory Hunter after transferring at the first semester break.
Implemented and trained staff on Restorative Practices. Handled all behavioral interventions (from tier 1 through 3).
- Ran lead for the Supervision and Safety Program.
- Led parent conferences and meeting protocols.
- Worked with beginning teachers.
- Used a Beyond Safe and Civil framework.
- Trained staff in and implemented Restorative Practices.
- Implemented trauma-informed practices at both school sites.
- Set the conditions for adults to be able to collaborate.
- Utilized Breathwork and Mindfulness practices with adults and students.
- Tasked with the mental and emotional health of all adults.

Alain Leroy Locke College Preparatory Academy 2012-2016

Special Education ELA Instructor

- Developed beginning teachers.
- Taught grades 9-12 students.

- Created behavior plans, transition plans, IEP's and SOP's.
- Provided accommodations/modification and differentiated instruction.
- Monitored caseloads Collaborated with general education teachers and co-taught lessons.
- Modeled demonstration lessons for other teachers.
- Trained and evaluated instructional aides.
- Implemented culturally and linguistically responsive and relevant curriculum.
- Developed and taught in praxis-aligned content circles.
- Collaborated and co-taught with general education teachers.
- Practiced best-first teaching through the works of John Hattie, EDI and current brain research.
- Implemented classroom systems and supports for the learning of all children.

Department Chair

- Led a team of five teachers in collaboration around student IEP's and on-going development.
- Provided PD for the whole staff and individual departments.
- Observed Special Education instructors, provided feedback and evaluation for the Special Education cohort.
- Led department trainings for curriculum design, implementation of UDL strategies, IEP writing and implementation.
- Behavior Plan writing and implementation and all other aspects of being a highly effective Special Educator.

Instructional Leadership Team Member

- Researched, collaborated, presented and implemented highly effective strategies at the school- wide level.
- Observed colleagues and provided feedback as to their instruction.
- In charge of data collection and analysis in order to drive instructional practices on campus; these strategies included: Mastery Grading, Proficiency Scales, Academic Discourse, Questioning and more.

Restorative Practices Lead

- Presented and demoed Community, Harm and Content circles for students and staff.
- Provided ongoing support and training for all staff.

LAUSD 2010-2012

Title 1 Reading Interventionist for Private Schools

- Assigned to Yeshiva University of Los Angeles High School (YULA), Yeshiva Ohr Elchonon Chabad High School (YOEC) and Mary Star of the Sea High School.
- Was part of the pullout intervention model at YULA for students below grade level and with high tier needs in ELA and History.
- Co-taught ELA at YOEC and pulled out small groups for reading interventions.
- Taught summer ELA courses at Mary Star as well as small group and individual students for reading interventions.

Publication

Restorative Practice Meets Social Justice: Un-Silencing the Voices of "At-Promise" Student Populations
Normore & Issa-Lahera - Information Age Publishing, Inc. – 2017

Professional Certificates

Psychological First Aid: Johns Hopkins University

Restorative Practices Trainer of Trainers: International Institute of Restorative Practices

Social and Behavioral Research: Citi Program

Beat the Odds SEL/Trauma-Informed Drum Facilitator: UCLA Arts and Healing Program

Administrative Services Credential-Clear: Commission on Teaching Credentialing

Education Specialist Credential-Clear: Commission on Teaching Credentialing

Recent Conference Presentations

Emancipating Education – How to Be Anti-Racist in Education

July 31-August 1, 2020

Keynote: Grounding in Schools

Grounding: Black Lives Matter Litany

Workshop: Humanizing Love and Joy in Schools

July 14, 2020

Workshop: It Can Be Done - Systems and Structures for Equity

March 27, 2021

Workshop: Identity and Criticality in School Leadership

Restorative Practices Conference

January 10 and 24, 2021

Introduction to Restorative Practices SURJ North County San Diego

Trauma Informed Practices - A Day of Community Awareness and Spirituality

June 26, 2021

Keynote: What is Trauma?

UCI Teacher Candidates Extravapalooza 2021: Trauma-Informed Practices July 6, 8, 13, 15, 2021

Workshops on Trauma and Interventions