

August 2016



Dear Site Administrator,

We hope you are having a wonderful start to the school year. The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project is excited to share that we will continue using Talent to enhance the work of new teachers and their mentors this year.

Talent is a secure web-based platform for uploading and annotating video to improve teacher practice. Using Talent, new teachers will periodically be filming in their classrooms as part of their Induction work. *Talent is a password-protected site that prevents video from being viewed by anyone other than the mentor and teacher.*

We know that video has the potential to have a powerful impact on teaching practice. This easy to use and secure system that will allow mentors and new teachers to harness the power of this technology. If you wish to learn more about Talent, here is the link to a brief YouTube video on the subject:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pR3-8iv0IA>

Mentors and new teachers may also use Talent to film veteran teachers' classrooms and review them together as part of the Mentor Facilitated Observation process. Observing veteran teachers to learn more about successful strategies for building effective learning environments and to enhance their instructional skillset is a highly valuable component of the Induction process. While in-person observations are best, we recognize that with our ongoing substitute shortage in California, it may not be possible for new teachers to leave their classrooms to observe others. Using Talent to record a consenting veteran teachers' classroom and then review it together may be a positive alternative in these cases.

We are informing you about teachers' use of the Talent video system in their classroom in the event that you receive any questions from parents. Because of the very limited nature of the sharing, most schools do not feel the need to obtain additional student permission for this type of filming. If you or your district have any questions about Talent, please do not hesitate to contact either SC/SVNTTP director listed below.

Again, we are excited that we are able to continue utilizing this powerful tool and the positive impact we believe it will have on mentoring, new teacher practice, and student learning.

Sincerely,

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