

Module One: Laying the Foundation (50 minutes)

Module at a Glance





This module focuses on the Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System (SAS) intent, conceptual framework and overview of the homepage, the six elements and a basic understanding of how to navigate the SAS portal.

Objectives:

SASITs will:

- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the intent of the Standards Aligned System (SAS).
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the features and navigation of the SAS Portal Home Page.
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the six elements of the Pennsylvania SAS and how they align to promote improved student achievement.

Train-the-Trainer Agenda

	Standards Aligned System (SAS) Overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity: What SAS Is, and Is Not • Intent of the Standards Aligned System • Activity: SAS In Context 	25 minutes
	SAS Home Page Overview	10 minutes
	SAS Portal Overview	10 minutes
	Lingering Questions	5 minutes

Icon Legend



Group Activity



Presentation



Teacher Tools



Demonstration and Practice Using the SAS Portal



Action Planning Activity



SAS 101 Training Materials

Module 1 Materials Checklist

SASIT Instructor

- SASIT PowerPoint
- SASIT Training Manual
- SASIT Parking Lot posters
- Laptop or computer with hardwired Internet connection

Participants

- Name Tents
- SASIT Training Manual
- Laptop or computer with hardwired Internet connection
- Markers (variety of colors; 4-5 markers per table)
- Post-it Notes

Equipment and Site Requirements

- Multimedia projector
- Screen
- Chart paper
- Availability of loaner laptops or additional computer access

Laying the Foundation (50 minutes)



Activity: What SAS Is, and Is Not (15 minutes)

Ask participants to identify what the Standards Aligned System is and what it is not, using the organizer on p. 19.

1. **What the SAS is:** Ask the participants to jot down three things they believe the SAS to be, discuss and share at tables, record out on posted chart paper.
 - **Reinforce the following information and ask the follow-up questions.**
 - The SAS is the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s comprehensive, systematic approach that integrates six distinct elements to support student achievement across the Commonwealth.
 - The SAS is a collaborative product of research and best practice. Extensive research has been conducted as to what makes a great school. There are many intangible components; however, research supports the notion that great schools and school systems tend to have common elements that ensure Student Achievement: Standards, Assessments, Curriculum Framework, Instruction, Materials and Resources, and Safe and Supportive Schools.
 - Are these elements new to educators? If these are not new why develop a systematic approach to student achievement? Why do you feel this was done?

SASIT Tip: Educators often use the six elements independently of one another. It is only by using the six elements together that improvement in student achievement can be obtained.

- What is the impact to student achievement if one of the six elements is missing?

SASIT Tip: The process is not as effective. It is by utilizing the elements together that the greatest achievement occurs.

2. **What the SAS is not:** Ask the participants to take 2 minutes and discuss at their tables what the SAS is not (e.g., a curriculum), record out on posted chart paper.
3. **Share the intent of the SAS:** Share the intent of the Standards Aligned System with participants (**SASIT PowerPoint – Slide #10**).



The intent of the Standards Aligned System is to ensure that every student, every teacher, every parent and every school has the quality tools and resources to ensure quality instruction and student achievement regardless of zip code, socioeconomic status, or size of school.



What the Standards Aligned System Is, and What It Is Not.

Step One: *What the Standards Aligned System Is...*

Identify three things that you believe the Standards Aligned System to be. Discuss them with your table, and be prepared to share with the whole group.

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Step Two: *What the Standards Aligned System Is Not...*

Identify three things that you believe the Standards Aligned System is not. Discuss them with your table, and be prepared to share with the whole group.

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Activity: SAS in Context (5 minutes)

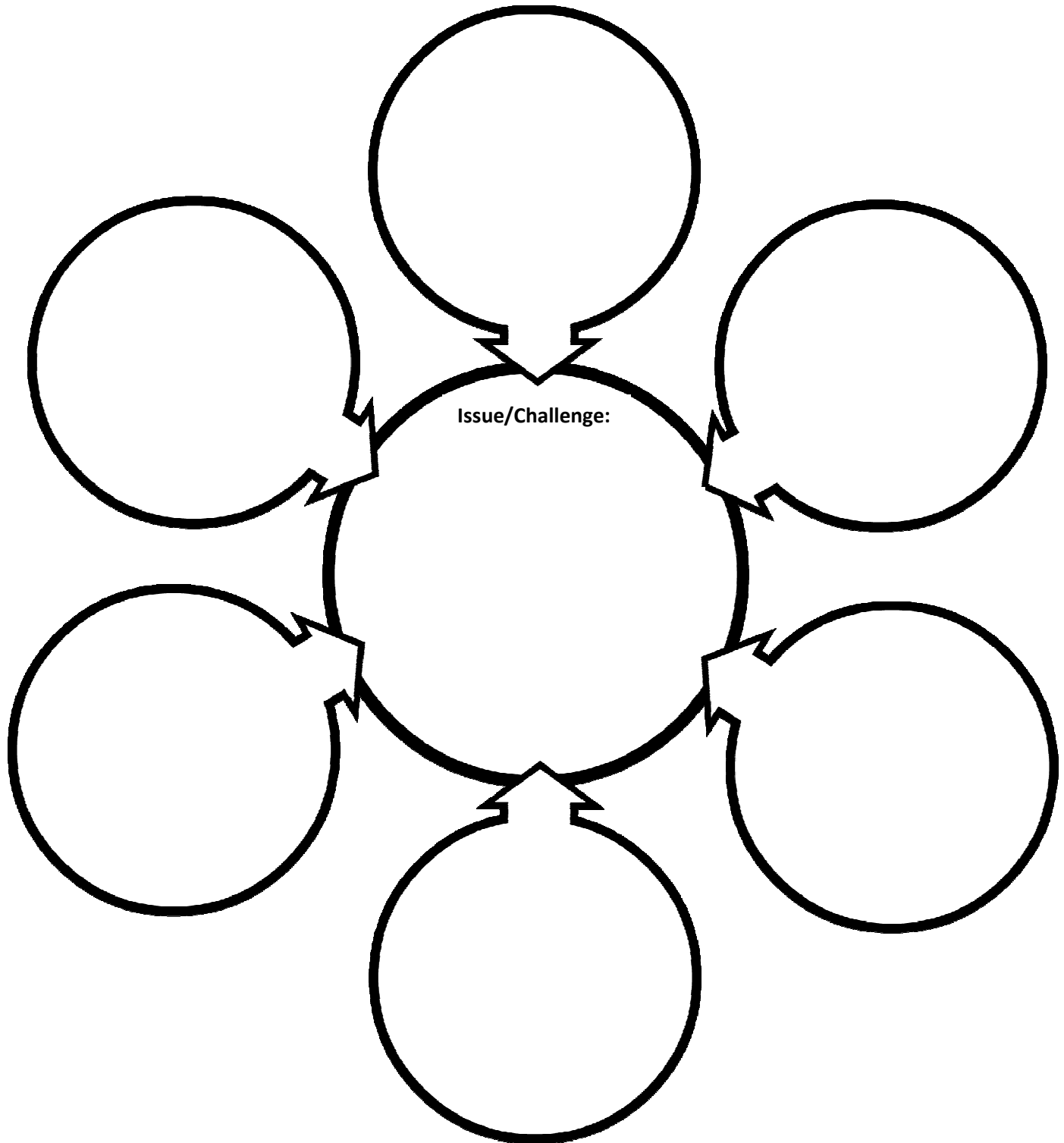
Ask participants to think about their last week in the classroom, school, district or organization. They will write their issue down on the SAS logo graphic organizer on p. 21.

Say to the participants:

We know that the central goal of the Standards Aligned System is Student Achievement. We are asking you to write down an issue that was encountered that is preventing a child from achieving. We will revisit this issue at a later time.



SAS In Context





SAS Homepage Overview:

1. Have participants navigate to <http://www.pdesas.org>.
2. **The six elements of the Standards Aligned System:** Move your cursor over each of the circles within the large SAS logo in the center of the **Home Page**. You can click to enter that area of SAS as it changes from blue to yellow. Directly to the right, a description of each element will be displayed as your cursor hovers over each one.

SASIT Tip: If the SAS elements do not change from blue to yellow when the mouse is hovered over them, the participant's computer is not properly equipped to access the SAS Portal.

3. **SAS Logo:** The SAS logo, located in the upper-left hand corner of the page, will take you to the **Home Page**. Remind participants that whenever you are in a different section of SAS and want to navigate back to the **Home Page**, just click on the SAS logo in the upper-left corner.
4. **SAS Featured Content:** As Pennsylvania commemorates the 150th anniversaries of the Civil War and of the Battle of Gettysburg, the **Featured Content** page will provide access to a select group of educational resources in the Standards Aligned System.
5. **SAS Portal Site Updates:** The **SAS Portal Site Updates** is a **RSS feed** that is located in the lower left of the homepage. The **RSS feed** provides notification of any changes to the SAS, the standards, current trainings, committee work requests, upcoming events, etc.

SASIT Tip: RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. Users can subscribe to the RSS feed that will automatically send them an email notification as new information is posted on the SAS Portal. The **Subscribe to RSS** link, which is located to the bottom left below the **SAS Portal Site Updates**, allows users to subscribe.

6. **Site Statistics:** Underneath the rotating image, point out the **informational items** that are displayed. The left bar indicates the number of registered users currently logged in to SAS. The right bar provides many more statistics.

SASIT Tip: Participants can view additional statistics by selecting the **View more stats** button. Here, a window will pop up that will give you detailed statistics about the site.

7. **Login or Register:** The lowest corner of the home page is where you can log in to or register for a SAS account. Registered Users can click **Login** to access their SAS account. New Users can click **Join Now** to register for a SAS account.

- The SAS is a two-tiered system. Visitors to the site do not have to be a registered user to access SAS; parents, students, and others can use the portal.
 - Teachers and administrators are highly encouraged to register because there are additional **Teacher Tools** that they will have access to when they register and login.
8. **Teachscape:** The **Pennsylvania Department of Education** in partnership with **Teachscape** is offering online professional development related to **Charlotte Danielson’s Framework for Teaching**. In order to access the system to take this online training and to receive Act 48 credit, users must have a verified PPID in their SAS user profile.
9. **Algebra I Resource Page:** This links to a page that contains **Algebra 1** materials that align with the **Keystone Exam**, providing instructional content for educators and subject-specific activities that students can use to prepare for the assessment. All of the resources are aligned to specific **Eligible Content** statements.

The types of resources are divided into three columns:

- **Educator Resources** – instructional resources for Algebra I teachers.
 - **Student Resources** – subject-specific activities for Algebra I students
 - **Sample Assessments** – standards-based sample assessments.
10. **Upcoming Training and Events:** This link provides access to a calendar of trainings and special events (e.g., the SAS Institute) provided by the **Pennsylvania Department of Education**.
11. **Teacher Tools:** The **Teacher Tools** link is located in the upper-right corner of the page. It provides access to specialized tools that include **My ePortfolio, My Website, Professional Learning Communities, Curriculum Mapping, Professional Development (PD) Center** and **Publish Your Best**.
- Clicking on the link to **Teacher Tools** will prompt users to enter a PPID number; if the user either has not entered a PPID, or does not possess one, they simply click **OK** to access the tools.
 - The specific tools will be reviewed later in the training.
12. **Help:** The **SAS Portal Help Desk** link (life preserver) is located in the upper-right corner of the page.
- **FAQs:** Frequently asked questions for each of the elements.
 - **Training Materials:** Access to materials and information for the various SAS trainings.
 - **Contact Us:** Contact the **Help Desk** via email or phone if a problem is encountered, to provide a suggestion for improvement or to report bad links.

13. **Footer Menu:** The **Footer Menu** is the black area that runs along the bottom of the page:

- **About SAS:** Information contained at this site include PreK-3 information, and related SAS materials, resources and templates
- **Contact Us:** Contact the **Help Desk** via email or phone if a problem is encountered, to provide a suggestion for improvement or to report bad links.
- **FAQs:** Frequently asked questions for each of the elements.

SAS Portal Overview:

SASIT Tip: This is simply a brief overview. Each of the elements will be visited in depth during the training.

1. **Standards:** Click on the **Standards** tab in the navigation menu. There are seven different ways to access the **Pennsylvania Academic Standards, PA Common Core Standards**, and related **Assessment Anchors** and **Eligible Content**.
2. Click on the **SAS logo** in the upper-left hand corner to return to the **Home Page**.

SASIT Tip: Anytime a participant is lost, clicking on the SAS logo will take them back to the home screen. To go back, the participant can use the back arrow at the top left of the computer screen, if the arrow is blue. If the arrow is blue, do not click on the "X" in the upper-right corner of your screen to go back a screen. Doing so will take you totally out of the system. To leave a screen, use the "X" only when the back arrow is not lit.

3. **Assessment:** Click on the **Assessment** tab. This element focuses on various aspects and tools related to Pennsylvania assessment: About Assessments, Keystone Exams, Assessment Creator, Reference Materials, Classroom Diagnostic Tools and Graduation Requirements.
4. **Curriculum Framework:** Click on the **Curriculum Framework** tab. This element focuses on what we teach. This element provides the specific topics to be taught for every content standard area as well as the Curriculum Framework definitions, English Language Learner Overlay, and the Library Model Curriculum.
5. **Instruction:** Click on the **Instruction** tab. This element focuses on how we teach by utilizing instructional strategies and practices, and the levels of learning. This element addresses the vision for effective instruction via the Teaching Frameworks and Principal Effectiveness. It also provides the ability to Search Videos, and access information regarding the Teacher of the Year and Keystones to Opportunities programs. In addition, this element focuses on ensuring that all students are provided with interventions and supports they need to meet and exceed grade-level standards.

6. **Materials & Resources:** Click on the **Materials & Resources** tab. This element focuses on resources that can be used to teach. This element contains a Search component, an Advanced Search, Voluntary Model Curriculum (VMC), Learning Progressions, and Keystone Content.
7. **Safe & Supportive Schools:** Click on the **Safe & Supportive Schools** tab. This element focuses on addressing the non-academic barriers to learning, and supplies resources and exemplars to promote active student engagement in a safe and positive learning environment.



Lingering Questions (5 minutes)

Have participants write down any questions that they have regarding Module 1, using Post-its. They should discuss the questions as a table group.

- Participants will affix any remaining questions (written on a Post-It note) to the appropriate Parking Lot.
- The question will be incorporated into the appropriate in-depth element segment.