

June 13, 2019

Dear Collaborative Members and Guests,

We look forward to seeing you in Stockton on June 26-27 for our upcoming meeting of the California Collaborative on District Reform. The meeting will focus on the use of data for improvement and the kinds of data systems and organizational cultures needed to productively support this use. We will anchor the meeting in local districts' data needs and strategies, drawing lessons and implications for a discussion of potential state-level actions as well. We are grateful to John Deasy and the Stockton Unified School District (USD) for hosting this important set of conversations.

### Meeting Overview

**Day 1:** The meeting will begin Wednesday morning by drawing attention to the differences between data use for accountability and data use for improvement, with particular attention to the culture shifts required in districts and schools to embrace a mindset of continuous improvement. Data alone will not produce improvements in districts, schools, and classrooms; educators need the knowledge, skills, and mindsets to interpret and leverage student and system information to identify problem areas, to develop new ideas, refine existing strategies, and abandon ineffective approaches. We will consider efforts underway in Sacramento City USD to build an improvement culture throughout the district, aided by a panel of district leaders and principals who will share successes and challenges they have experienced to date.

Having explored the cultures and practices that can support ongoing reflection and improvement, we will turn to the kinds of data systems that can inform educators as they work across classrooms and schools. Long Beach USD will share ways in which it collects, organizes, and shares data from within the K-12 education system with a variety of audiences for a range of different purposes. To supplement this presentation, we will hear about ways in which San Bernardino City USD incorporates evidence about students' social and emotional needs and circumstances outside school to foster whole-child development, effective responses to students' trauma- and health-related challenges, and partnerships with other organizations and agencies in the community.

In the afternoon, small groups will explore several of the key considerations alluded to in the morning's discussions, including challenges and strategies for building educator and system capacity for effective data use, technical considerations in establishing local data systems, and decisions about which data to collect and monitor over time. The day will conclude with an examination of communications strategies to inform students and parents about individual student progress and to engage the larger community in using data for local planning and progress monitoring.

As is our tradition, we will follow Wednesday's deliberations with an opportunity for networking, collective relaxation, and continued conversation over dinner. We will also have the opportunity to hear about the local community in which the meeting is taking place from Stockton's school board president, Lange Luntao, and Superintendent John Deasy.

Day 2: On Thursday morning, we will turn our attention to the state government and the ways it can support local districts in addressing their data needs while also monitoring progress of schools, districts, and the state as a whole. In particular, we will focus on the rationale and plans for a more comprehensive longitudinal student data system in California, bringing to bear what we have learned on the first day, reflections on the current data systems and reporting strategies (notably the California Dashboard), and specific proposals and planned actions for moving forward. The day will end with a set of recommendations or considerations for state-level decision makers and reflections on the takeaways from the two days of dialogue.

### Readings

As usual, all readings and reference materials for the sessions are available in multiple formats. If you requested a hard copy of the binder, all of the materials are included there; the cover sheet behind each tab identifies a subset of priority readings that we suggest you read before the meeting. **For your convenience, on Friday, June 14, you will also receive an email with the subset of priority pre-meeting readings attached. We strongly encourage you to read this subset of materials prior to the meeting**, as they provide important background information on the topics we will discuss. Also for your convenience, all of the meeting materials are available on the Collaborative website at <http://www.cacollaborative.org/meetings/meeting39> and at a DropBox link you will receive via email.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting logistics, please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Smith at 650-376-6439 or [dsmith@air.org](mailto:dsmith@air.org). If have any other questions, please email me ([joday@air.org](mailto:joday@air.org)) or give me a call at 202-262-4987. I look forward to seeing you all later this month!

Sincerely,



Jennifer O'Day  
Chair, California Collaborative on District Reform, and  
Institute Fellow, American Institutes for Research