

THE CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE ON DISTRICT REFORM

June 11, 2009

Dear Collaborative members and guests,

We look forward to seeing you at our tenth convening of the California Collaborative on District Reform, which will be held in San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) on June 22-23. The topic is *Response to Intervention: Implementing Tiered Support for Equity and Access*. Many thanks to Art Delgado and his team for hosting this meeting!

Our deliberations in San Bernardino this month will in many ways provide an opportunity to extend and particularize those held in Fresno in March. In Fresno we were focused on strategies to ensure equity and access for all students. In San Bernardino, we will be zeroing in on a specific approach for meeting individual student needs and keeping them on track for learning and graduation: Response to Intervention (RTI). While RTI is often discussed in the context of IDEA and early intervention and identification strategies for special education, this tiered approach to intervention has much broader application for differentiating instruction, selecting and evaluating specific interventions for specific students, and addressing long-standing achievement gaps among sub-groups. It is with these broader purposes that we will approach our discussions in SBCUSD.

June 22

At 8:30 we will gather in the conference room of SBCUSD for a light breakfast (see logistics summary) and then convene the meeting at 9:00. We will begin with Arturo Delgado and his team setting the context for the meeting by presenting their Response to Intervention framework and defining the challenges they face in implementing the guidelines district-wide. They will present the implementation “problem” for meeting participants to consider within the context of SBCUSD’s reform efforts. We are also fortunate to have Darren Woodruff, co-director of the National Center on RTI, and Helen Duffy from the National High School Center, who will talk with us about national trends and challenges in implementing RTI, particularly at the secondary level. Discussion will focus on the *RTI framework*, pulling in questions and lessons from national patterns and experience in other Collaborative districts.

In the afternoon, we will turn to district *implementation* of the framework and the challenges associated with a consistent and effective roll out, particularly at the secondary level. We will have an opportunity to hear from SBCUSD school practitioners about their progress in implementing the SBCUSD RTI framework and the barriers they have faced in implementing it effectively and equitably. Dialogue will focus on several key questions, including needed professional development and data tools and the role of the district office.



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We will adjourn at 5:00 and regroup at 6:30 at Las Campanas Mexican Cuisine & Cantina for cocktails and dinner. The restaurant is located at the hotel for the meeting, the Mission Inn and Spa in Riverside (see logistics summary).

June 23

On Tuesday, we will convene at 8:00 for a light breakfast, and then turn our attention to the specific connections between RTI and the issues of equity and access that we explored in the Fresno meeting. In particular, we will discuss how the RTI framework in SBCUSD supports district plans to address the needs of targeted **student subgroups** and helps to ensure that all students are given equitable educational opportunities and access. We will explore the extent to which students are over/under-represented in the intervention programs and the extent to which the programs are supporting the district's Targeted Instructional Improvement Plan (TIIP) for these subgroups.

After a short break, we will turn our attention to the important question of resources to support this work, particularly in the context of current fiscal constraints. We will begin with an overview from Rick Miller about the current statewide fiscal context including the recent budget cuts and availability of federal stimulus funds. We will then return to the district level, discussing possible resource allocation alternatives and challenges. Toward the end of the meeting we will consider the implications of the two-day deliberation for state policy. We will adjourn by 3:00.

As usual, we have provided background materials relevant to the discussions in this binder. These include information on San Bernardino's context, performance, students, and framework; information about RTI and its implementation; readings on disproportionality and strategies for addressing programmatic inequities, and information about funding. As in previous binders, behind each tab you will find a brief description of each reading, with priority readings indicated with a double asterisk (**). We have tried to keep the priority readings to a minimum so that you can at least peruse these prior to the meeting.

If you have any additional questions regarding the meeting logistics, please don't hesitate to contact me (joday@air.org) or Suzanne Claussen and the California Collaborative staff at 650.843.8192.

Again, thanks for joining us!

Sincerely,



Jennifer O'Day, Collaborative Chair
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