

# THE CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE ON DISTRICT REFORM

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March 11, 2010

Dear Collaborative Members and Guests,

We look forward to seeing you at our twelfth convening of the California Collaborative on District Reform, which will be held in Sacramento City Unified School District on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The topic is *The Federal Role in Education: Considerations for ESEA Reauthorization*.

This topic is particularly timely as Congress is currently holding discussions on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the most recent authorization of which is the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Education has been developing its proposal for reauthorization, which they hope to forward to Congress shortly. At our last meeting, Collaborative members voiced a desire to provide input into these deliberations, based on our unique collection of perspectives and the particular issues and conditions facing California districts.

## Overview of Meeting Agenda

Behind the first tab, you will find the meeting agenda. We start off Tuesday with a discussion of the administration's proposed **overall direction for ESEA**, presented by Collaborative member and Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Education Mike Smith.

The remainder of the meeting will be divided between two more specific areas of discussion, suggested by several Collaborative members. On Tuesday afternoon, we will consider recommendations from the Working Group on ELL Policy (<http://www.ellpolicy.org>), focusing both on **federal policy regarding ELLs and on their implications for ESEA accountability** more generally.

On Friday, we will turn our attention to the topic of **human capital in ESEA**, beginning with a discussion on how to define and measure teacher and leader effectiveness and then moving into smaller groups to discuss policies to promote equitable distribution of effective teachers and leaders; professional learning to increase effectiveness; and incentives to motivate and reward effective practice.

As usual, there will also be opportunities for networking and collective relaxation at the group dinner Tuesday evening.

## Potential ESEA Working Group

Given the desire of Collaborative members to provide specific input into the reauthorization dialogue, the breadth of possible areas for recommendations, and our limited meeting time, we may convene a smaller working group after the meeting to deepen the discussion and to produce a concrete set of recommendations for Congress to consider. Please think about the issues you think such a working group should address and about whether you would like to be involved in further work in this area.

## Overview of Binder

Consistent with prior meetings, we have provided background materials relevant to the discussions in this binder. These materials include overviews of the current ESEA and evaluations of its implementation and effects; reauthorization recommendations from various groups; and articles relevant to accountability, human capital, and English learners in ESEA.



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As with previous binders, we have selected a limited number of articles as a priority reading (marked with a double asterisk \*\* on the lists behind each tab). I list them here for your convenience.

For those less familiar with the provisions of NCLB (Tab 4)

Executive Summary from Stullich, et al. (2009) (for an overview)

For information student performance under NCLB (Tab 4)

Mike Smith's PowerPoint slides on NAEP trends during NCLB (for a quick look)

- OR -

Dee and Jacobs (2010) piece (for a more in-depth treatment)

For information on the Obama administration's and other proposals (Tab 5)

Secretary Duncan's testimony to the House Committee on Education and Labor

- AND -

Center for Education Policy (2010) recommendations

For an overview of NCLB's accountability provisions and implementation (Tab 6)

Executive Summary of Taylor, et al. (2010)

For an overview on the methods for evaluating teacher effectiveness (Tab 7)

National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality's *Practical Guide to Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness* (2009)

For a discussion of ELLs in ESEA (Tab 8)

Recommendations from the Working Group on ELL Policy. (Please note that these are not yet public and so we ask that you do not disseminate them).

As always, we have included a variety of additional materials both in hard copy and on the enclosed CD for your reading pleasure. (The CD contains both the electronic versions of the included and additional related materials for further exploration and sharing.)

If you have any questions regarding the meeting logistics, please don't hesitate to contact Suzanne Claussen and the California Collaborative staff at 650.843.8192. For any other questions, you may contact me either by phone (202.262.4987) or email ([joday@air.org](mailto:joday@air.org)).

Again, thanks for joining us!

Sincerely,



Jennifer O'Day, Collaborative Chair  
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