Informing the CCEE: Lessons from the California Collaborative on District Reform

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CCEE Board Meeting
June 4, 2015
Three Focal Questions

• What is the CA Collaborative on District Reform?
• What have we learned from ten years of collaborative inquiry?
• What are potential implications for the CCEE’s work?
1. What is the CCDR?

• Diverse Learning Community
  – Systemic strategies to improve instruction and student learning
  – Reduce opportunity and outcome gaps

• Activities
  – Member meetings
  – Policy working groups
  – Special projects
  – publications
What is the CCDR: Distinguishing Features?

Four research-based features:

• District focus
• Practice-of-problem approach
• Multiple perspectives
• On-going community
What is the CCDR: Impact?

- Individual learning and practice of the members
- Spread of promising practices across member districts
- District voice in policy discourse
- Strong relationships (social capital) across roles and jurisdictions → break down silos, engender new partnerships
2. What have we learned?

- Need for systemic approaches to improvement and equity
- Need for adaptation and flexibility to respond to contextual variation
- Power of collective learning borne from collaboration around concrete problems of practice
Lessons re: collaborative learning

• Benefits
  – Exposure to additional perspectives → bigger picture and specific strategies
  – Motivation to act
• Not a magic bullet or quick fix
  – Requires trust, effort, mutuality, commitment
• Collaboration breeds collaboration: new way of doing business
Implication for CCEE?

Approach

• Focus on capacity and continuous improvement
• Support variety of models for support and intervention to foster appropriate fit
• Avoid creating more bureaucracy and reinforcing compliance behavior
• Recognize what we don’t know: model a learning stance
CCEE Tasks and Goals: Initial Period

• Investigate strategies and models
• Build capacity of CCEE
• Work with others to identify useful and appropriate tools and resources
• Consider COEs as important and viable target for capacity building
• Visibly establish/demonstrate CCEE as new approach
CCEE Tasks and goals: Long-term

• Overall goal to ensure that the intent of LCFF is being realized
• Continue focus on capacity, continuous improvement, and multiple models but with shift to interventions
• Apply learning from initial period
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