

THE EDUCATION TRUST—WEST POLICY AGENDA

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUPPORT

PROBLEM:

In the last few years, California has adopted a new dashboard that measures school and district performance, established a framework for supporting districts, and crafted a new accountability plan in response to the Every Student Succeeds Act, the national civil rights education law. With the design and planning work mostly done, we now look ahead toward implementation. **Here are the priorities we believe state leaders should focus on:**

- **Make it easier for all stakeholders to find, understand, and use the California School Dashboard for school improvement.**
 - Gather input from multilingual and multiethnic parents and community members in order to learn how this website can better meet their needs.
 - Centralize other data about schools into this one web tool, so that parents and communities have a one-stop resource.
- **Add a research-based growth measure to the Dashboard in order to hold schools and districts accountable for how much they impact student learning and progress from year-to-year.**
- **Hold alternative schools and their districts accountable for student success.**
 - Continue to develop alternative school-specific accountability measures, and add this data to the Dashboard.
- **Improve and integrate state data systems.**
 - Enable users to easily search for, disaggregate, and cross-tabulate data in order to answer key questions.
 - Bring together data that are currently scattered across multiple agencies so Californians can see how students are progressing over time, kindergarten through workforce.
- **Provide meaningful support to struggling schools and districts, and escalate interventions if they do not improve.**
 - Report on the Dashboard which schools and districts have been identified for assistance.
 - Make it explicit that families and communities must be engaged in school and district improvement planning process.
 - Require that districts choose evidence-based improvement strategies and interventions.
- **Engage students and families in school and district decision making.**
 - Require districts to regularly survey students and parents and report this data.
 - Build the capacity of districts and schools to engage stakeholders around planning, budgeting, and school improvement.

California has identified 229 districts as needing assistance. In 2018, it will identify hundreds of schools as struggling as well. How will these districts and schools be held accountable for improvement?

To read the full ETW Policy Agenda visit: <http://edtrustwest.org/policyagenda2018>



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