

# INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA EDUCATION

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# Why should you care about California?









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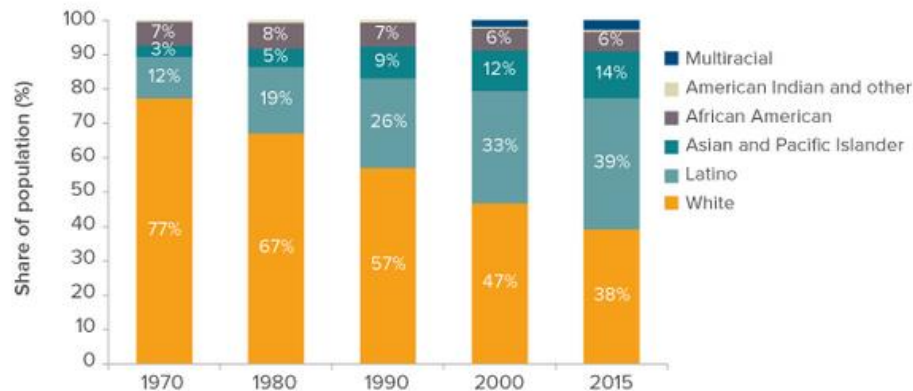
- California is the biggest American state, by far
  - 40 million people , 6 million children in K-12 schools
- California is an economic super-power
  - Fifth-largest economy in the world
  - Trails only the U.S., China, Japan, and Germany
  - Bigger than the U.K., India, France, and Brazil
- USA is a federal republic—states have lots of power, especially in education, and California is pioneering new education policies
- California looks like the future, for better and for worse





# Growth and diversity

- Rapid and steady population growth since 1945
- “Majority-minority” state
  - Whites a shrinking minority in California
  - Latinos now the largest single demographic group
  - Asians the fastest-growing demographic group



SOURCE: California Department of Finance 1970–2000; American Community Survey 2015.



# Vast inequalities

- California is the richest state, with the highest poverty rate
- Ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in income inequality
- Regional disparities especially sharp
  - Urban-rural
  - Coastal-central
  - Housing costs, gentrification, and the displacement of poverty
- Implications for teachers and other public servants

# California's Education System

- “From First to Worst”
- Top-ten to bottom-ten in per-pupil funding
- How did this happen?
- Shift in spending priorities

**Table 1. California State Spending by Function, by Percentage**

	K-12	Higher Ed	Corrections	HHS
1976	28	18	3	30
1988	39	14	6	32
1999	41	12	7	26
2012	41	10	10	29

Source: <[www.dof.ca.gov/budgeting/budget\\_faqs/documents/CHART-C.pdf](http://www.dof.ca.gov/budgeting/budget_faqs/documents/CHART-C.pdf)>, accessed September 19, 2012

# Penny Wise and Pound Foolish

- Prison population quadrupled
- Corrections costs increased by 900%
- School expenditures stalled and then declined
- The state paid \$50,000 a year to incarcerate young men it would not spend \$10,000 a year to educate
- Corrections costs outstripped spending on public higher education



# Proposition 13: Fiscal Consequences

- Strict limits on property taxes
- Windfall for property owners, including businesses
- Huge reservoir of untaxed wealth
- Key contributor to gentrification, inequality
- Excessive dependence on income taxes, capital gains taxes
- Cyclical volatility in state revenues
- CA tax rates are high, tax effort is low

# Proposition 13: Policy Consequences

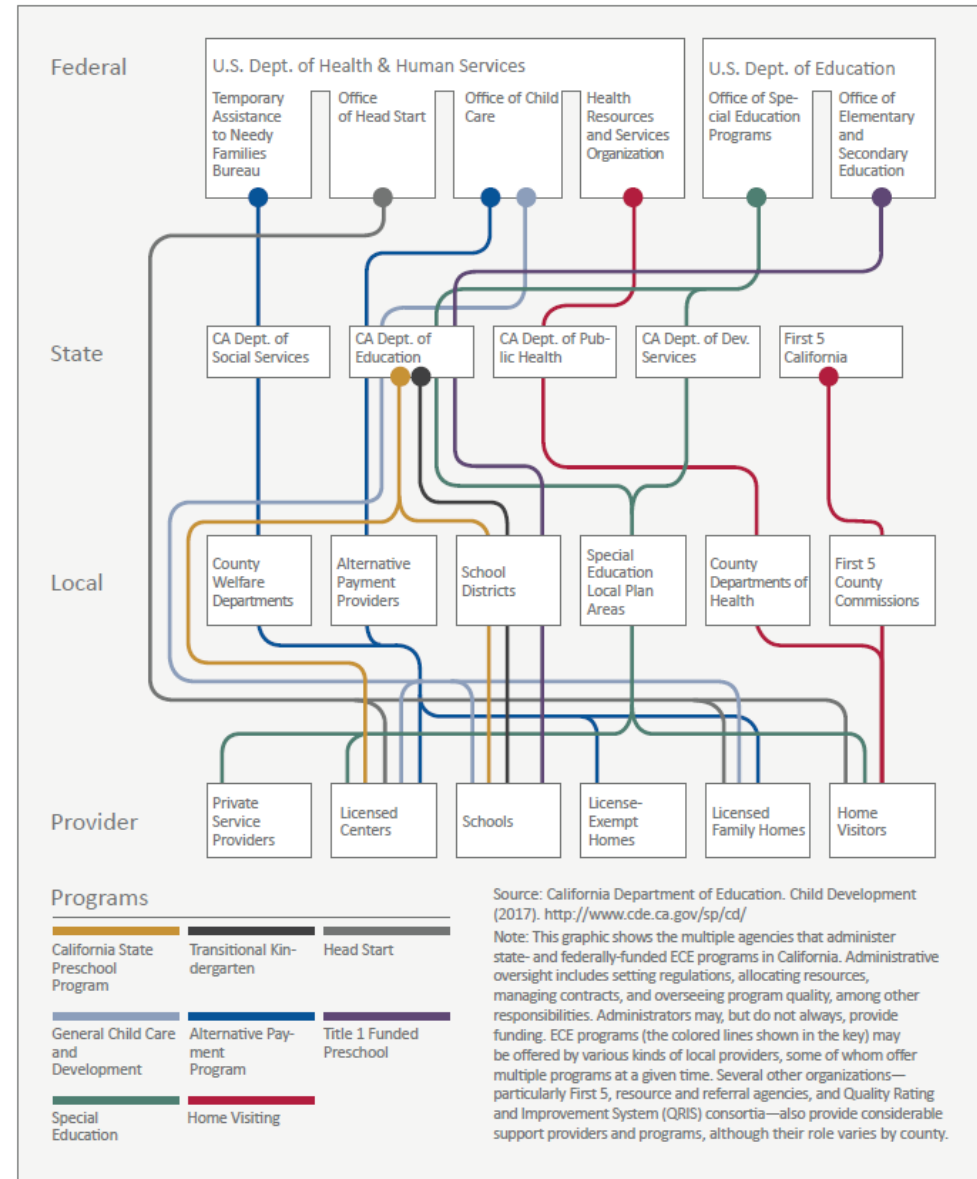
- Proposition 98
  - Revenue guarantee for schools and community colleges
  - Ceiling, not a floor
- Centralized control of revenue in Sacramento
  - Categorical funding
  - Mandates and regulation
- Public School Accountability Act
  - Test-based accountability
  - School rankings

# Fragmented Educational Governance (I)

- Early Childhood Education



**Figure 1: Control of California's Early Childhood Education Programs**



# Fragmented Educational Governance (II)

- K-12
  - Proliferation of state agencies
  - 58 counties
  - 1000 school districts
  - 1300 charter schools
- Post-secondary
  - Four autonomous systems of higher education
  - 72 community college districts, 114 colleges
- No state data system

# Dire consequences for schools and students

- Inadequate funding
- Too few adults in schools
  - Administrators, counselors, librarians, nurses
  - Teacher shortages, especially bi-lingual and special education
- Low achievement compared to other states
- Wide achievement gaps
  - Race
  - Language
  - Social class





# California's Policy U-Turn



# In 2011, it began to change....

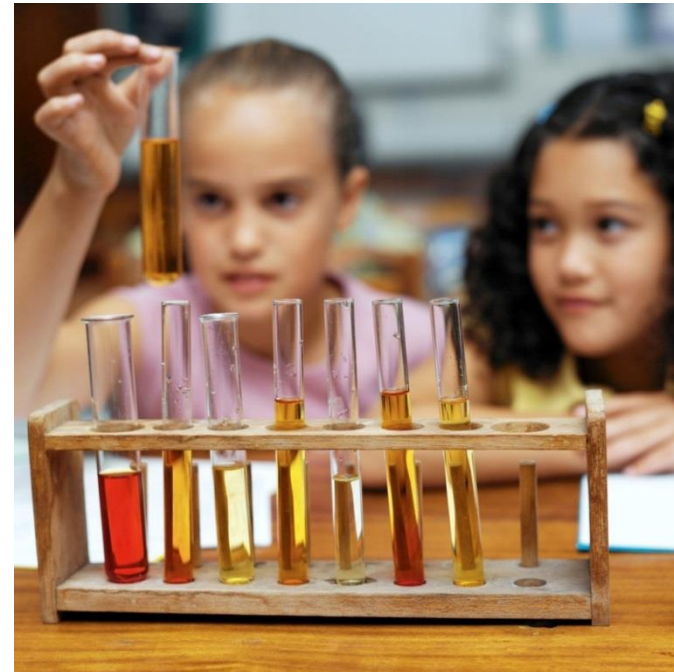


David McNeu, Getty Images



# California is Now on a New Path

- New funding plan
- New approach to governance
- New standards and assessments
- New accountability strategy



# Flexible Funding Based on Student Needs

More money for each

- Low-income student
  - English learner
  - Student in foster care
- (unduplicated count)

Add-on for districts with concentrations of such students

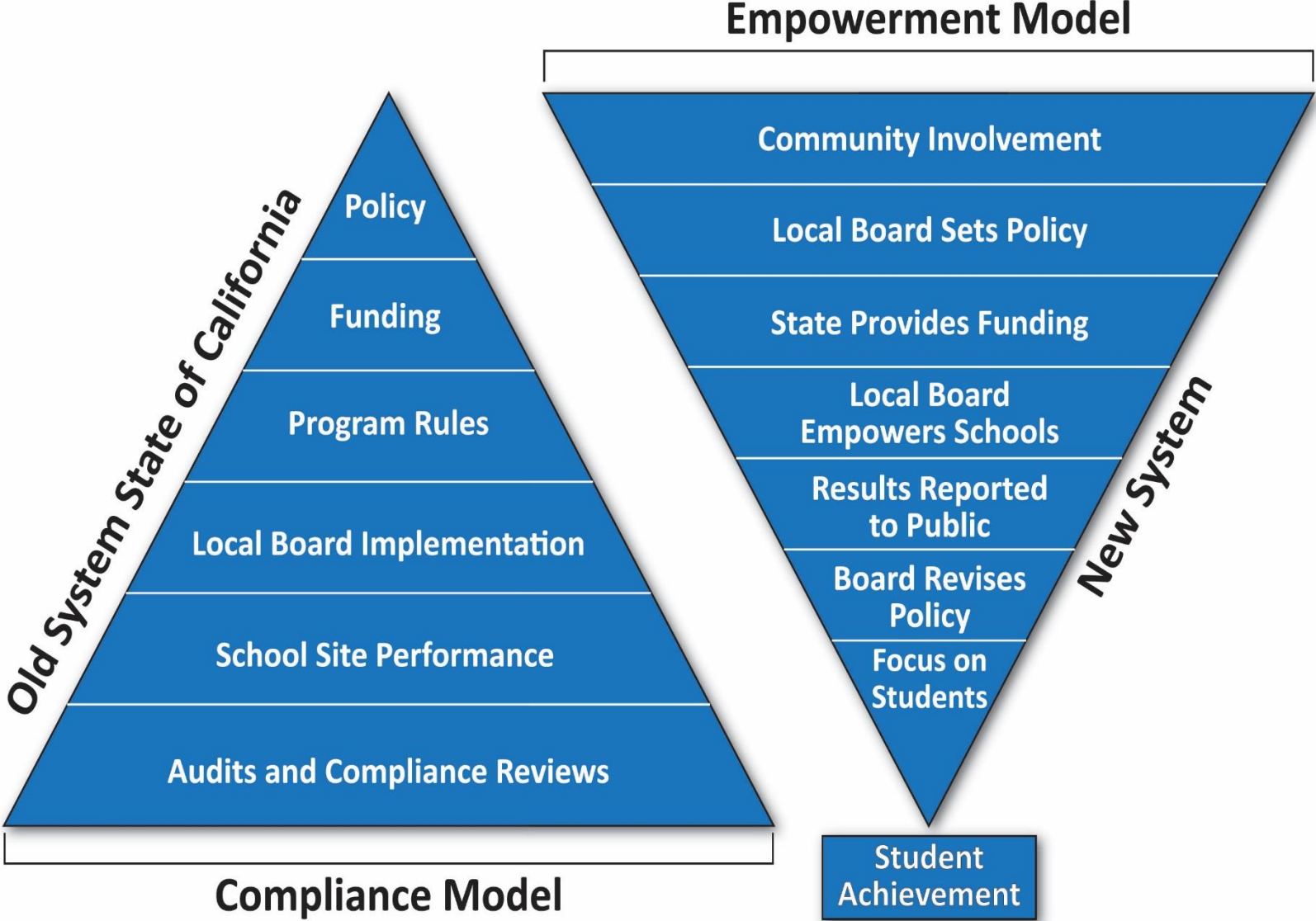
More flexibility:

- Elimination of most categorical funding programs
- Budgeting to meet educational goals
- Community involvement
- Measurement toward goals
- County oversight
- Annual updates





To Act Differently We Must Think Differently





# New Standards & Assessments

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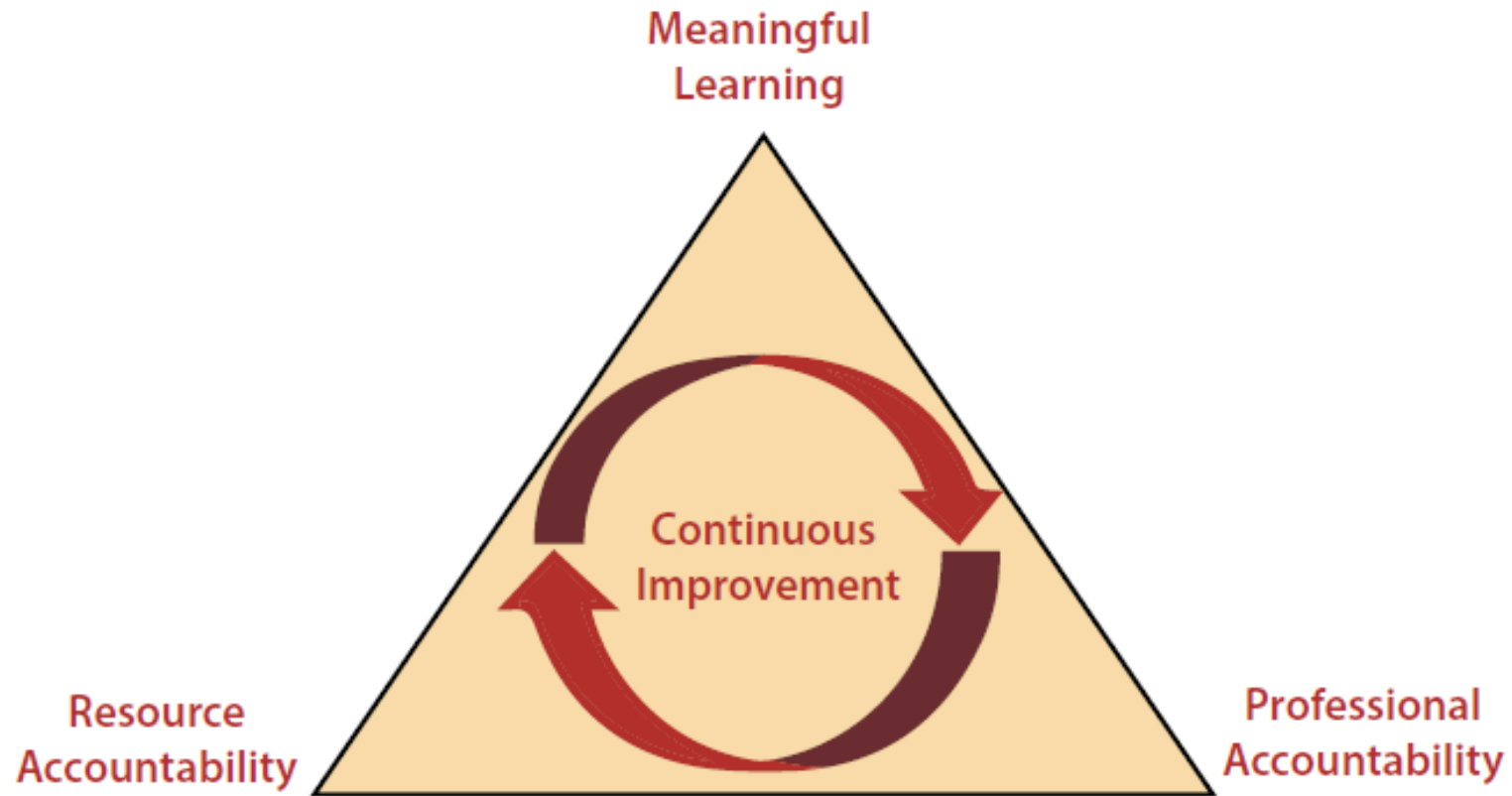
- Adoption of **Common Core State Standards** and **Next Generation Science Standards**
- Changes in the Assessment System
  - Shift to Smarter Balanced Assessments
    - ✓ Greater focus on higher order skills
    - ✓ Use of performance items and tasks
  - Elimination of other tests
  - Assessments used for information and improvement, not sanctions and punishments

## Recommendations for Transitioning California to a Future Assessment System

**EMBARGOED**

Until CDE Release on January 8, 2013





## A New Concept of Accountability

# Multiple Measures: Opportunities and Outcomes

## **Student Achievement**

- SBAC Test Scores / Gains
- English Proficiency Gains
- Evidence of College & Career Readiness (e.g AP, IB, dual credit)

## **Student Engagement**

- Attendance
- Dropout rates
- Graduation rates
- Evidence from student surveys

## **Other Outcomes**

- Completion of a college or career ready pathway
- Completion of a workplace learning or community service experience

## **School Climate**

- Suspensions, Expulsions
- Student & Professional Supports (student, teacher, and parent surveys)

## **Parent Involvement**

- Efforts to seek parental input
- Evidence of parent participation (parent surveys)

## **Basic Services**

- Teacher Qualifications
- Access to materials
- Adequate Facilities

## **Implementation of Common Core**

- Access to CCSS instructional practices
- Access to CCSS professional development

## **Curriculum Access**

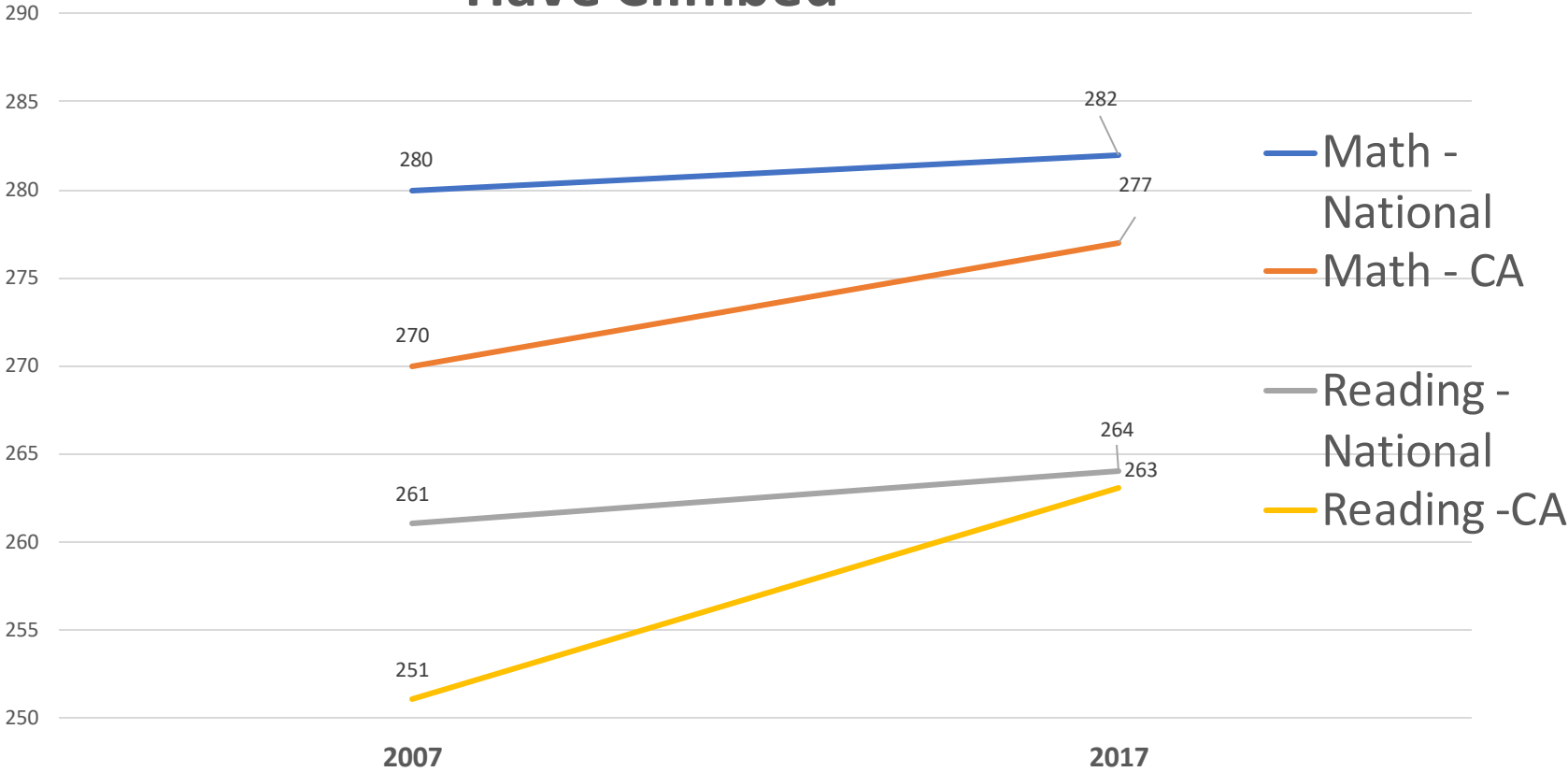
- Access to curriculum in the core academic subjects, STEM, the arts, and physical education

# Outcomes are Turning the Corner

- California's 4 year graduation rate, at 83%, is the highest in our history.
- Student achievement has grown rapidly, especially in districts benefiting from LCFF
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students went from bottom on NAEP to near national average in reading and closed the math gap by 50%
- College-going rates are turning upward
- But inequalities remain
- And funding is inadequate

# California 8th Grade NAEP Scores Have Climbed

8th Grade NAEP Scores

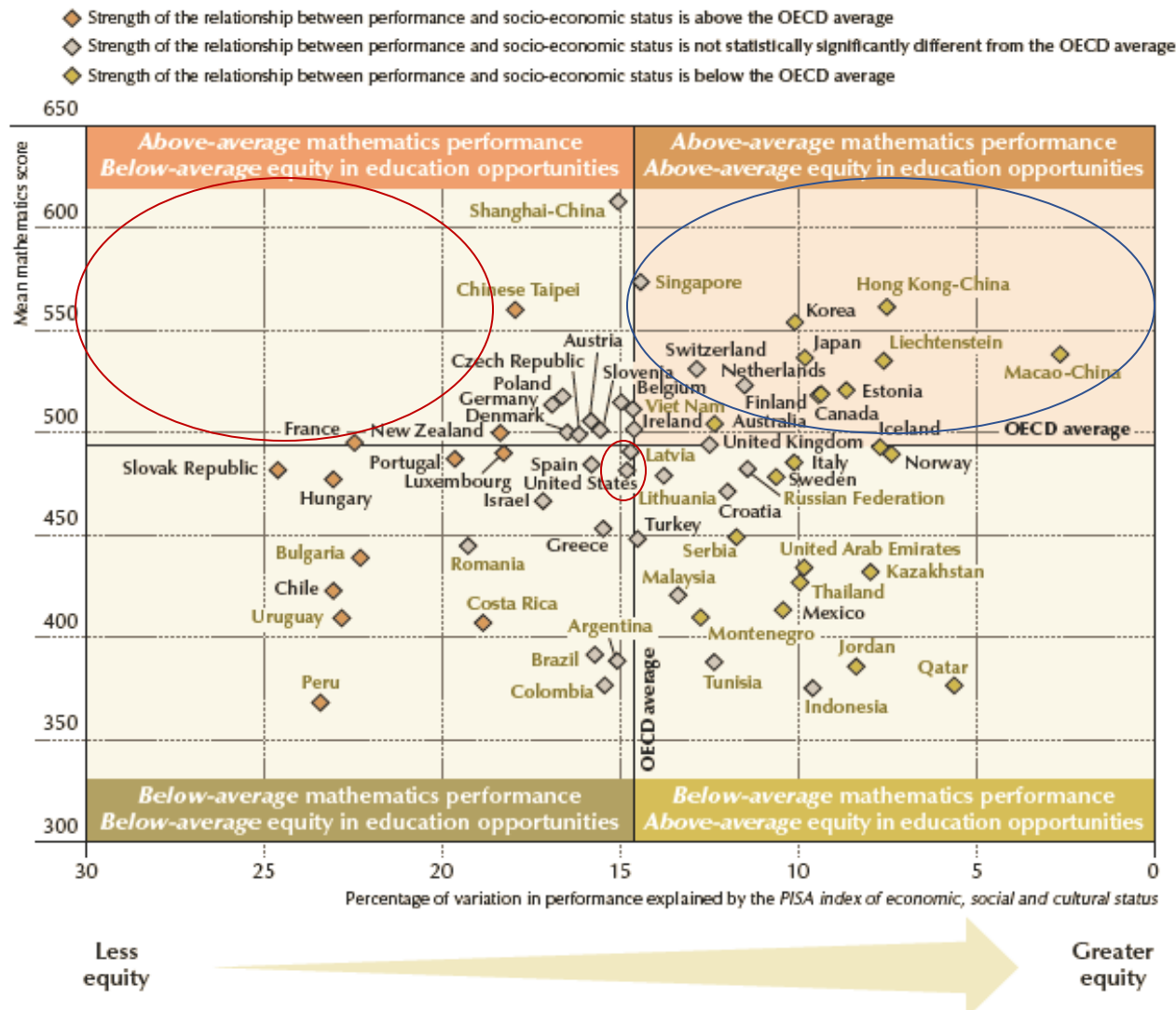


Where is California viz a viz World Leaders?





# High Performers Combine Quality with Equity



# Policies in High-Performing Nations

- Equitable resources to schools
- Equitable access to a rich, thinking curriculum
- Performance assessments focused on higher order skills
- Major investments in educator preparation and ongoing support
- Schools designed to support teacher and student learning
- Supports for children's welfare, including health care, income security, and preschool



# Next Steps

- **Adequate and equitable funding focused on:**
- **21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum and assessments** used to improve teaching & learning
  - A thinking curriculum
  - Multilingualism; arts; physical fitness
  - School designs that support relationships and deeper learning
- **Professional capacity**, through high-quality preparation, professional learning, and sharing of expertise within & across schools.
- **Early learning opportunities & community schools** that address the opportunity gap

# What Will a Continuously Improving System Require?

**Supporting Continuous  
Improvement in  
California's Education  
System**

**Linda Darling-Hammond  
David N. Plank**

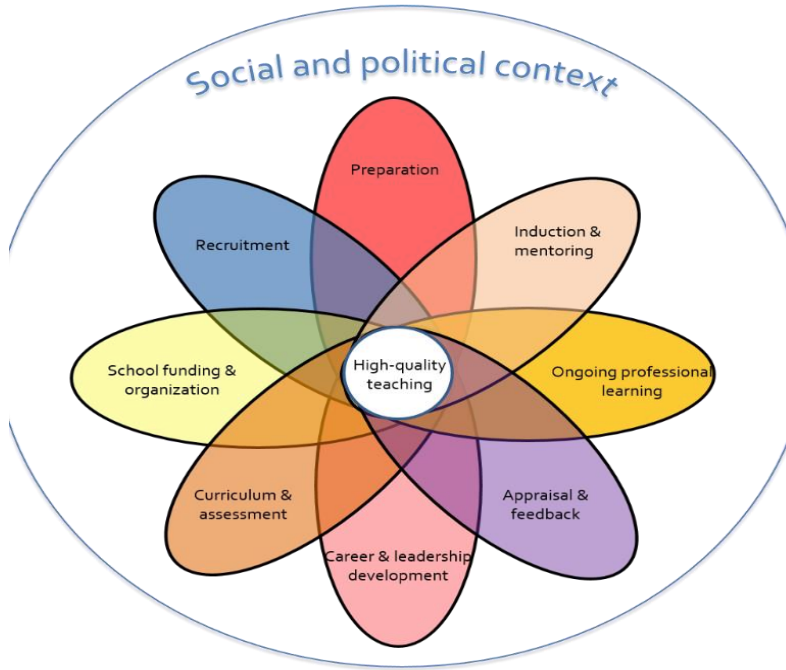
January 2015



**scope**  
Stanford Center for  
Opportunity Policy in Education



# Key Questions: Are We...



Building a System?

or

Managing Procedures for  
identification and intervention?



Intervening after Failure has  
occurred?

or

Enabling Success?



## Elements of a Continuously Improving System





# Capacity- Building for Ongoing Improvement

- Data and Ongoing Review:
  - Focus on opportunity and equity
- Learning supports:
  - Professional learning infrastructure & time
  - Training of mentors, coaches, and leaders
- Knowledge sharing:
  - Assemble research and exemplars
  - Support schools & districts in sharing their successes and learning
- Evaluation:
  - Study major initiatives to improve implementation and guide future investments

# Christopher Edley, Jr.

U.C. Berkeley Law; Former Dean

Co-Founder, the Opportunity Institute

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## Conditions for Success in California

1. New Revenue

2. Race, Ethnicity

3. Early Childhood

4. Parochialism; Wine

Four Fundamentals

## 5. Advocate for the Evidence

- Infrastructure for policy choice
- Local Capacity: policy *and* implementation
- Local Control  $\neq$  Instinct + Politics

## 6. Effective Engagement of Outsiders

- Build capacity; substantive and political value
- Duplex

## 7. Accountability to Police Devolution/Localism

- Infrastructure for policy choice
- Local Capacity: policy *and* implementation
- Local Control  $\neq$  Instinct + Politics

## 8. Effective Engagement of Outsiders

- Build their capacity; substantive and political value
- Build their capacity; substantive and political value

## 7. Accountability to Police Devolution/Localism

- Data; Dissemination; Teeth

## 8. Make Allies; Broader Progressivism

- Dramatic change *iff* broader progressive politics and policy

## 9. Use an equity lens, *always*

- Equity is often a secondary policy goal
- Principle: *Design for Disadvantage*



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Marijuana  
Is Legal  
In California