

Long Beach Partnership

FACT SHEET

Learning partnership forged

Fresno Unified and Long Beach unified school districts have forged a learning partnership to allow the sharing of best practices to accelerate the pace of district reform. With similar demographics and challenges, the partnership helps to leverage resources to improve student achievement for the more than 150,000 students combined which both districts serve.

Leveraging resources to improve student achievement

The partnership allows both school districts to gain greater control over resources to have more room for innovation, while committing to specific academic benchmarks that are aligned to existing district goals. Lauded by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell as a "model pilot," the partnership gained state funding flexibility, allowing for focused investment in district reform efforts to maximize student academic improvement.

Preparing students for success through focused work

The goal of the partnership is to prepare all students to be ready for success in higher education or a career with significant economic growth potential by focusing on three areas: mathematics (curriculum), English-Learners (students), and leadership development (adults).

Leading district reform efforts

Whether it's providing expertise, jointly developing efforts, or engaging outside resources, the partnership is boosting reform initiatives in both Fresno Unified and Long Beach Unified that is getting results for students. Specifically, the partnership's work is centered around four main strategies:

- Increasing academic rigor for all students;
- Building leadership capacity of adults;
- Aligning all systems for an efficient and effective organization; and
- Securing the support of external partners to root the work.

At-a-Glance

The Partnership

- Partner Assistance
 - The district which has expertise in a particular area helps the other to build capacity
- Joint Development
 - Work together to develop capacity to attack an identified common need
- Collective Work with External Groups
 - Engages outside organizations to secure resources

The Significance

- Structured collaboration
 - Accelerates pace of district reform
- Increased flexibility
 - Greater local control over resources
- Increased accountability
 - Committing to specific academic benchmarks

"This new partnership will be a model pilot that we can soon extend to districts throughout this state."
- Jack O'Connell, State of Education
January 22, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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