School Accountability and The Achievement Gap: Ensuring Black Minds Matter

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What is an education accountability system?

- A comprehensive and multi-faceted system of expectations, resources, monitoring, supports, and more
- A way to hold schools, districts, educators, and students responsible for results
- A way to ensure that every child has access to an equal, equitable, and quality education
The building blocks for an equity-focused school accountability system

- **Expectations**: Set clear expectations that schools and districts must raise the achievement of all students, not just some.
- **Resources**: Provide resources necessary to meet those expectations.
- **Measures**: Measure and publicly report progress toward meeting expectations for all students.
- **Action**: Take action to help schools and districts meet expectations, and take additional action when they fall off track.
Our Changing Accountability System

Old

- California standards written in the 90s
- California Standards Tests
- No Child Left Behind
  - Adequate Yearly Progress
  - Program Improvement
- Old system of categorical grants and compliance

New

- New California standards (Common Core, Next Generation Science)
- Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Every Student Succeeds Act
  - State-designed accountability plan
  - Gap-closing goals
  - Bottom 5%
- Local Control Funding Formula
  - More equitable and flexible funding
  - Local Control & Accountability Plans
  - Evaluation Rubrics
  - California Collaborative for Education Excellence
How California’s Accountability System Can Help Close Achievement and Opportunity Gaps

- SET GOALS
- MONITOR PROGRESS
- ENSURE TRANSPARENCY
- OFFER SUPPORTS
- INTERVENE WHEN NECESSARY
A Whole-System Focus Can Ensure We Address Opportunity and Achievement Gaps

We have 8 state priorities...

- Student achievement
- Student engagement
- Other student outcomes
- School climate
- Parent & family engagement
- Basic services
- Implementation of Standards
- Access to courses
A Whole-System Focus Can Ensure We Address Opportunity and Achievement Gaps

...and Multiple Levels of Accountability:

- State
- County Offices of Education
- Local School Districts
Key Policy Issues

• The **Academic Performance Index** was suspended in 2014 and 2015. Budget trailer asks for it to be suspended in 2016 too.

• ESSA requires that each state submit a **state plan** for accountability by around Jan 2016.

• The State Board of Education must adopt **Evaluation Rubrics** by Oct 2017.
What ETW Believes We Need in a New Accountability System

• High goals and gap closing targets
• Displays of school and district performance that prominently show information on subgroup performance
• Meaningful differentiation of schools
• Supports and interventions that are targeted to areas of need