

Talking Points on The Evolution to Educational Excellence

ACSA is advancing the dialogue about the **true cost of educational excellence**, and it is proactively offering recommendations for action. We believe that specific improvements in four priority areas are imperative:

- **Narrowing the achievement gap;**
- **Building capacity among teachers and administrators;**
- **Measuring results through reliable data on student achievement;** and
- **Providing adequate, stable and ongoing funding.**

Narrowing the Achievement Gap – A Focus on Outcomes

- ✓ Recent reform efforts should be given time to work and an emphasis should be on student achievement.
- ✓ Schools must have the resources to help students achieve results.
- ✓ A well-rounded curriculum is essential.
- ✓ Student, school and district achievement must be measurable over time.

Building Capacity among Teachers and Administrators

- ✓ Quality teaching is essential to student success.
- ✓ Effective leadership influences student learning.
- ✓ Emphasis must be placed on the role of the principal.
- ✓ Building central office capacity must be a priority.

Measuring Results through Reliable Data on Student Achievement

- ✓ State and local data systems currently don't measure up.
- ✓ Understanding how to interpret data can help all educators improve student achievement.
- ✓ Individual student progress should be accurately measured over time with results provided in a timely fashion.

Providing Adequate, Efficient, Stable and Ongoing Funding

- ✓ California's existing school finance structure does not align with its educational goals.
- ✓ Proposition 98 does guarantee schools minimum funding, but minimum funding simply won't do.
- ✓ Resources to support teachers and administrators meet the needs of all students is critical.