

California's New System of Support

California is such a unique state, especially when it comes to our education system. California schools face more challenges than most other states due to our size and diverse population, however, managed correctly those same elements also provide us with more opportunities for success. California's new Statewide System of Support is designed to help us overcome obstacles to school improvement that may have blocked progress in the past.

CCSESA is working collaboratively with the state Department of Education (CDE), California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), California School Boards Association (CSBA) and the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), and others to implement the new System of Support in a way that helps all students succeed by giving each district the specific support they need to understand and address the underlying causes of achievement gaps.

California is too big and too diverse for one-size-fits all approaches. We recognize that each district has distinctive issues that require different approaches. Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) are one of the tools we will be using to help us develop and support these unique approaches.

This new system uses the California School Dashboard as a data driven online tool to deliver useful information to help identify strengths and weaknesses, and pinpoint student groups that may be struggling, and therefore need additional support.

Past approaches to improving classroom learning for all students didn't yield desired results because the piecemeal focus was on short-term problem-solving rather than making lasting system-wide changes.

Instead, the new System of Support is focused on continuous improvement – reviewing and refining practices and policies to bring about improvement that can be sustained.

Instead of putting out fires, we are working to build a fire-proof system. This fireproof system will only work if we all work together with local education communities on how best to address student needs. The new system has to empower all local stakeholders to examine data, engage in discussion, and make changes to improve schools.

You'll be hearing more about the System of Support and how you can help it succeed. We want to help our local educators help themselves and our students by building up individual skills and systemwide capacity. Every student deserves a chance to succeed and we should aspire to make this a reality. The more students who succeed in school, the greater the benefit to California's economy and to all Californians.