California's System of Support Talking Points

Closing the Opportunity Gap

- 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.

- The System of Support is designed to help all students succeed by giving each district the unique support they need to understand and address the underlying causes of achievement gaps.

Encouraging a Shift in Mindset, not Quick Fixes

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

- The System of Support is focused on continuous improvement – reviewing and refining practices and policies to bring about improvement that can be sustained.

- Think of it this way: Instead of putting out fires, we are working to build a fire-proof system.

Tailoring support to local needs and context

- Local education communities know best how to address local needs.

- California is too big and too diverse for one-size-fits-all approaches – each district has distinct issues that require unique approaches. The Local Control and Accountability Plans is the tool that helps us develop and support each unique approach.

- Leveraging existing relationships and knowledge at the local level to provide support that is more responsive.

- With the System of Support, districts are working with their county offices of education and other local partners who know the local context.

Promoting local ownership of the process and outcomes to build capacity

- Empowering all local stakeholders to examine data, engage in discussions and make changes that improve schools for all students. The California School Dashboard plays a key part in delivering useful information to all parties involved in this new approach.

- Helping local educators help themselves by building individual skills and systemwide capacity.