**Offsetting Learning Gaps During the Pandemic**

**Notes**

**March 19, 2021 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM PST**

* Supt. Thurmond Opening Remarks
  + Mission: Leave the meeting with a plan to offset learning gaps.
    - 6.6 Billion from AB 86 to support COVID Testing and offsetting learning gaps
    - Emphasized need for planning for student return, summer, fall.
* Attendee roll call
* Dr. Linda Darling Hammond Presents
  + Data from 13 Core Districts
    - There has been learning loss, particularly in the lower grades
    - Unexpectedly, has been an above average gain in math in the high school grades
    - Learning loss is greater for ESL and low income students
    - Improvement from distance learning last year to this year
  + Need to Prioritize
    - Relationships
    - Culturally responsive and engaging material, so that students can relate to what they are learning
    - Ensure students are being valued
    - Student perceptions of their abilities effect their learning
      * Encourage enrichment over drill and kill, not a punishment for deficits.
      * Have heterogeneous summer groups
    - Trauma informed practices
    - Social interaction in diverse, green, environments
    - Project based
    - Partner with after school alliance, summer camps, wrap around services
    - Tutoring
      * Experienced tutors are cost effective
      * Meet several times a week with a small group of students
    - Community Learning Hubs
* Q & A
  + Kim Rosenberger, SEIU:
    - How can we prioritize using public services over contracting out to private companies?
    - Supt Thurmond: We aim to lift up best practices so that the 1000+ school districts can make informed decisions about what is best for their district.
    - Dr. LDH: Training paraprofessionals has been highly effective in terms of tutoring for reading recovery, etc.
  + Jessica Bartholow, Skinner’s office
    - Meeting basic needs of children (Maslow before Barstow)
    - Dr. LDH: We have state and federal funding coming to support basic needs for students, (housing, food, etc). We also want to highlight the importance of wraparound services
    - Supt Thurmond: Districts have provided over 600 million meals during the pandemic
* Comments from Dr. Noguera
  + Tutoring works to both address academic needs and the human connection students need. Teacher burnout is important to consider, paraprofessionals and community based services, universities, etc. can help with designing summer programs. Reopening is not a switch, those who may need to return the most may also be the most reluctant.
* Comments from Dr. Duardo
  + LACOE is using a Community Schools Model, has been very effective
* Presentation from Xilonin Cruz Gonzales, CA Together, and on behalf of CABE and Patty of PIQE
  + Focus is on ESL, low income, first generation college students
  + School wasn’t working for many students before the pandemic, our hope is that we do not return to the practices we used before, but improve upon them.
  + Priorities
    - Inclusive participation in the planning process, centered around student needs
      * Families are part of the solution
    - Innovative and effective two way communication with families/schools
    - Culturally and linguistically responsive communication
    - Providing support for not just students, but their families, in coordination with communities and counselors
    - One on one connection, especially for families who do not have the trust.
    - Utilize CBO’s, create parent liasions and advocates
  + Principles to think about
    - Equity based
    - Differentiated based on student needs
    - Rich oral environment (60% of young students come from families who speak another language)
    - Fun
    - Need more bodies, even if you are using one time funding
    - Alignment between expanded learning and regular schooling.
  + Q&A
    - Tia Orr: Want to emphasize and utilize social services for support needs like housing, food security, etc. Want to ensure we have standards of training.
    - Toby Boyd: Don’t want to drill and kill, encourage educators to be apart of the process.
    - Gloria: Support families holistically
    - David Schapira: MIT did a meta-analysis to show that individualized support from tutoring, during school, is most effective to help students get caught up. 10% of learning loss funds to help with staffing. I hope that’s a floor and not a ceiling
    - Steven: Requesting flexibility in the summer around minutes. Reducing that or adding flexibility, we could get kids more credit.
    - CTA: Patience over pacing, Teachers are concerned they will be back on pacing goals where students might not necessarily have the skills, but are forced to move on. Teachers are open to summer school, after school enrichment, differentiated instruction.
    - Jessica from Skinners Office: We are returning to a campus after a summer of violence against minorities. Are there other things to consider when bringing back students? Especially schools with a higher density of students of color. One school district has made the decision to not have police on campus, but instead social workers.
      * Supt Thurmond: We agree with Jessica, we are working to draw down Medi-Cal dollars for those kind of supports, but we need more and we need a strategic way to do this.
      * Debra Duardo: In LACOE, a lot of people are living in isolation, experiencing grief, racial issues, everyone (children and adults) are experiencing more mental health issues. It will take more than 1 year to recover from this pandemic.
    - Dr. Duardo: Grading for equity, and differentiated assistance. Need to assess diagnostic tools, and add assessments to check for wellness in terms of mental health disorders.
    - Edgar, ACSA: Partnerships from children and youth to connect the dots. <https://content.acsa.org/coronavirus-in-ca-schools/summer-learning-scenario-planning>
    - Dr. Duardo Give guidance to Supts on how they can use one time dollars to hire staff. Also looking at partnerships with CBO’s.
* Volunteers to design something by June 1:
  + Patty from PIQUE
  + Xilonin Cruz Gonzales, CABE
  + Sujie Shin CCEE
  + Norma CTA
  + Californians Together
  + PTA
  + Edgar Zazueta, ACSA
  + CABE
  + Natalie, Ed Trust West
  + Debra Duardo
  + CSBA
  + CCSESA, Derrick Lennox
  + Rigel from SBE