

Edsource Symposium
California State PTA Convention, April 30, 2015

Memorable Quotes

A major challenge in California education, and the focus of recent reforms, is how to improve outcomes for high-needs children. EdSource Symposium speakers and panelists tried to answer some of the following questions: Will recent reforms achieve the results they are intended to have? What strategies are proving successful in serving high-needs students — and what more needs to be done?

Pedro Noguera - Keynote speaker from the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University and regular education commentator on CNN, MSNBC, NPR and other national news outlets

- “Common Core is the opportunity to do what we should have been doing all along.”
- “Equity is the biggest failure in our nation.”
- “Pressure is not an effective reform strategy.”
- “Our students are not failing because they can’t learn, but because we have not given them the supports they need to succeed.”
- “We act as though we can threaten people into improving schools.”
- On students repeating a class - “Another year of what you just failed at is not going to bring success.”
- “Biggest issue with our teachers is the isolation of our teachers.”

On what is working:

- “Plan the lessons everyday together for every class!”
- “..access to highly effective teachers”
- “Focus on engagement, not on achievement”
- “Passive learning is DEADLY!”

“Homework is an equity issue.” “Homework can be addressed at the school site!”

“We need an equity focus to keep race and class from predicting outcomes for students.”

And finally.....the best quote of the morning around the adequacy of funding issue – **“California is not a poor state, it is a cheap state!”**

Other ideas:

- Common core alone will not close the achievement gap. It is about providing the necessary supports for students
- Building capacity is how we make this come alive.
- “Setting the table for parents and actually inviting them to dinner are two different things!”
Ryan Smith – on LCAPs