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