

ONE SCHOOL FOR ALL

Common Core for Unique Student Populations

All students deserve access to great schools, colleges, careers and opportunity. Yet, the fact is our education policies and classroom practices could be doing more to reach all our students. We must make certain that all students, including English Learners and those with disabilities who have historically been underserved, are able to thrive in the new era of Common Core.

We have a huge opportunity and moral imperative to better serve our most vulnerable students by addressing achievement gaps that fall along lines of race, economics and learning abilities. In order to help students see their unique abilities as assets and not liabilities, we must bring more creative ways of thinking and solving problems into our education systems, schools and communities.



Leverage time

- ◆ District leaders should provide funding for joint professional development for general education or single-subject teachers and teachers of unique student populations.
- ◆ United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) should advocate for more common planning time and “teaming” for teachers of special education, English Learners, and general education.



Leverage Teachers

- ◆ The state legislature should require teacher preparation programs to develop more rigorous coursework on unique student populations for pre-service teachers.
- ◆ Districts should train teacher leaders in supporting unique student populations and integrating technology to ensure district-wide equity.
- ◆ UTLA should identify and communicate to its members teacher leadership and professional development opportunities in adapting Common Core for unique students.



Leverage Resources and Partnerships

- ◆ The California Department of Education should create and articulate a clear vision for how districts and schools should increase access to technology to better understand and serve unique student populations.
- ◆ Districts should utilize family liaisons to work in partnership with teachers and administrators to facilitate family engagement and trainings that support understanding of Common Core shifts and challenges for unique student populations.

For far too long, education policy has been created without a critical voice at the table—the voice of classroom teachers.

Educators 4 Excellence (E4E), a teacher-led organization, is changing this dynamic by placing the voices of teachers at the forefront of the conversations that shape our classrooms and careers.

E4E has a quickly growing national network of educators united by our Declaration of Teachers' Principles and Beliefs. E4E members can learn about education policy and research, network with like-minded peers and policymakers, and take action by advocating for teacher-created policies that lift student achievement and the teaching profession.

Learn more at Educators4Excellence.org.