



Comprehensive School Assistance Program

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The Comprehensive School Assistance Program (CSAP) strives to make a significant contribution to closing the achievement gaps in American education. These gaps, rooted in issues of race, ethnicity, income, and home language, limit the life chances of students and slow down America's progress as a nation.

CSAP works to build the capacity of schools, school districts, intermediate agencies, and state departments of education by providing research-based services and support to help transform low-performing schools and districts into highly effective learning organizations. While many, if not most, state and federally funded efforts to close the achievement gap focus on schools or districts, our work recognizes that all levels of the education system—from the home to our federal government—have a role to play in closing achievement gaps.

CSAP operates the National Center on School Turnaround, which provides technical assistance to, and helps build the capacity of, states across the country to support their districts and schools in turning around their lowest-performing schools.

On the state and regional levels, CSAP operates two centers. The California Comprehensive Center collaborates with the California Department of Education and other statewide networks to improve teaching and learning for all students in California. The Region IX Equity Assistance Center provides technical assistance and training to Arizona, California, and Nevada districts, schools, and states in civil rights, equity, and school reform.

CSAP staff also provide direct services to schools and districts to support local efforts to close the achievement gap and turnaround performance.

Selected Highlights

- Assisted low-performing schools and districts, with notable achievement gains for schools in Arizona, California, and Nebraska. Initiated improvement efforts in major urban districts, including Milwaukee (WI), and California's San Diego, San Jose, and Stockton.
- Enhanced WestEd's national reputation as a leader in the education of English learners: partnered with California Department of Education staff and WestEd's ASDS to develop new Common Core-aligned English language development standards for California; and co-authored widely cited national Title III evaluation report on setting English-language-proficient performance standards, growth time frames, and academic progress expectations.

Selected Success Stories

Creighton Elementary School District, Phoenix, AZ

In 2007–2008, prior to WestEd's work with the district, only two of Creighton's nine schools were identified as "Performing" by the state. Six were identified as "Underperforming," and one was identified as "Failing to Meet Academic Standards." With support from the Ellis Foundation, the district began its partnership with WestEd at the beginning of the 2008–2009 school year. As of the end of the 2010–2011 school year, all Creighton schools were identified as either "Performing Plus" or "Highly Performing."

San Juan School, Aromas/San Juan Unified, San Juan Bautista, CA

During the 2008–2009 school year, San Juan School was among the state's lowest-performing schools and

its Academic Performance Index (API) growth was negative. WestEd is partnering with the school to provide comprehensive school transformation services, one of the four intervention models outlined in the federal School Improvement Grant guidelines.

Since partnering with WestEd, San Juan School has experienced API growth of 126 points—nearly quadruple the state growth of 34 points during the same period. During the 2010–2011 school year alone, the school's API growth was 83 points—more than seven times the state growth of 11 points during the same period.

CSAP Services

CSAP's goal is to deliver an integrated, research-based set of services complete with an array of tools and protocols focused on building the capacity of state, intermediate agency, district, and school stakeholders to close achievement gaps.

Staff have deep expertise that includes building rigorous curricula through Common Core State Standards, developing and implementing effective instructional and student engagement strategies, accelerating literacy and academic vocabulary for English learners and other struggling students, aligning human and fiscal resources to priorities, and in collaboration with staff from other WestEd programs, increasing achievement outcomes for students with disabilities.

Our services also include professional development to build a systematic means of increasing student academic learning and performance by enhancing the quality and quantity of family and parent support.

CSAP is committed to meeting the specific needs of each client, and after assessing needs, CSAP recommends an improvement plan that includes a coherent suite of supports and services customized to each client's unique circumstances.

Selected Resources

Equal Access to Content Instruction for English Learners: An Example From Science

Effective Principals for California Schools: Building a Coherent Leadership Development System

Forward, Together: Better Schools Through Labor-Management Collaboration

How Next-Generation Standards and Assessments Can Foster Success for California's English Learners

Moving Leadership Standards Into Everyday Work: Descriptions of Practice

Using Multiple Forms of Data in Principal Evaluations: An Overview With Examples

Selected Projects

Migrant Student Information Network (MSIN)

The MSIN project manages the state of California's longitudinal data system for its Migrant Education Program. MSIN project staff provide training and support for the identification and recruitment of migrant students undertaken by county offices of education and school districts. They also monitor the data and prepare all state and federal reports.

SchoolsMovingUp

SchoolsMovingUp helps schools and districts raise student achievement by connecting people with experts, resources, and each other on high-interest topics related to improving student outcomes.