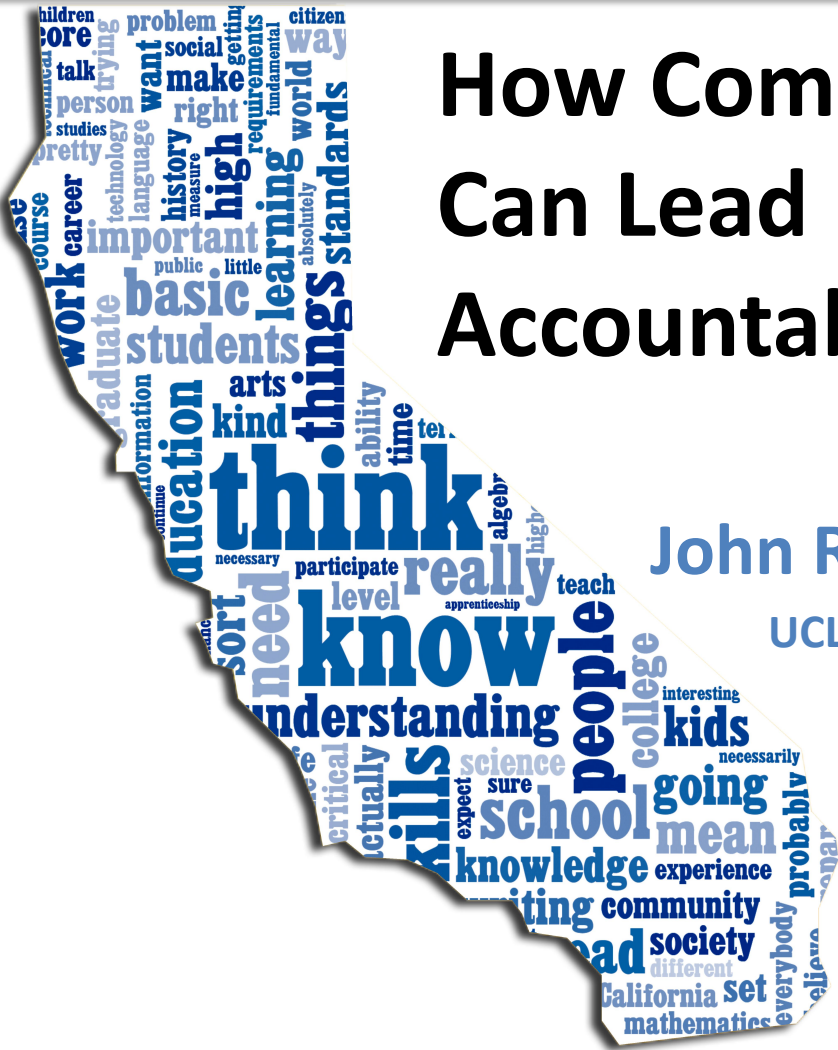


How Common Education Values Can Lead to a More Balanced Accountability System

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“I think everybody should be able to cross the stage with a high school diploma and be able to walk into higher education in our public system, or walk into a job site or technical trade school and be able to pick up the technical trade manual ... and be able to read the darn thing.”



It is a good time to
begin this conversation

Rethinking Accountability



Sen. Steinberg and Supt. Torlakson call for broader measures of quality that support development of “critical thinking skills, effective oral and communication skills, curiosity and imagination.”

Governor Brown calls for reducing the number of tests and developing a “qualitative system of assessments.”

A word cloud graphic shaped like the state of California, containing various terms related to education and learning such as 'think', 'know', 'people', 'kids', 'school', 'going', 'skills', 'understanding', 'community', 'society', 'learning', 'teaching', 'education', 'basic', 'important', 'student', 'work', 'career', 'high', 'quality', 'standards', 'curriculum', 'assessment', 'equity', 'access', 'innovation', 'partnership', 'collaboration', 'research', 'evidence', 'practice', 'policy', 'advocacy', 'leadership', 'vision', 'mission', 'values', 'ethics', 'integrity', 'transparency', 'accountability', 'responsibility', 'commitment', 'dedication', 'passion', 'perseverance', 'courage', 'resilience', 'flexibility', 'adaptability', 'creativity', 'critical thinking', 'problem solving', 'communication', 'teamwork', 'collaboration', 'leadership', 'vision', 'mission', 'values', 'ethics', 'integrity', 'accountability', 'responsibility', 'commitment', 'dedication', 'passion', 'perseverance', 'courage', 'resilience', 'flexibility', 'adaptability', 'creativity', 'critical thinking', 'problem solving', 'communication', 'teamwork', 'collaboration'.

The Purpose of Education Study

- Snowball sampling beginning with key Republican and Democratic Legislative Staff.
- Who influences your thinking?
- 5 Legislators (3D, 2 R), 12 Leg Staff (6D, 6R), 8 business leaders, 7 labor leaders, 6 Civil rights or civic leaders, and reps from think tanks and lobbies.



The Purpose of Education Study

- *30-40 minute phone interview exploring:*
- Personal memory of powerful learning experience?
- What knowledge and skills HS grads should know and master?
- Do CA schools provide equal opportunities for students to learn?
- Should CA schools prepare all students for college?



Personalization

“There was something about me personally that was recognized ... [the teacher] noticed me; she noticed who I was; she noticed what I could do and what I could be.”

--Labor leader



Active Engagement

Second grade math class was a “profound”
and lasting “real-life lesson.”

--Republican Legislative Staff



Application in Authentic Settings

“If you give me a framing square and tell me the length and pitch of a roof, I can construct the trusses.”

--State official

(on applied vs. theoretical geometry)



What knowledge, skills, and understanding do you value?

Core Knowledge and Skills



“They should be proficient in a range of subject areas and skills, [including] the ability to read and comprehend and express themselves, both verbally and in written form at an adult level. They should be able to understand mathematical concepts and operate arithmetically and mathematically as an adult ... Those would be the minimum.”

--Business leader



21st Century Skills

“Collaborating with others is important, as very few of us work alone and even when we work alone, we have to interface with others.”

--Republican Legislator

Critical Thinking Skills



“An understanding of the scientific methods ... ability to articulate a problem and understand the steps that you go through to try to experiment, to resolve that.”

--Democratic Legislative Staff

Students should learn “how to be skeptical, to evaluate sources of information ... sifting through [what is] being told to you and looking for hidden persuaders.”

--Business leader



Civic Skills and Commitments

“Discern between different arguments ... deal with inputs of large amounts of information and media.”

--Lobbyist

“They need to be able to work in teams, to appreciate people’s differences.”

-- Labor Leader

“They ought to understand that decisions are made by those who show up.”

--Democratic Legislative Staff



Are California public schools promoting broad learning outcomes?



Practices that narrow

While CA adopted “high stakes testing [with] the right intention, [it has] tended to reward a pretty narrow definition of the skills and knowledge.”

--Business leader

“If it is not measured, it is not important.”

--Lobbyist



What would an accountability system look like if it followed our shared education values?



“Education should be more about helping cultivate that love of learning and the skills of learning, so that lifelong learning is real.”

--Business leader



“That was absolutely the greatest skill ever taught to me in high school ... the ability to think through a decision, and justify that set of decisions in a way that made sense ... you had to follow the bouncing ball right down the line and explain exactly what you had observed and the decisions you made.”

--State official

(on judging livestock for Future Farmers of America)



Comments

- Senator Curren Price
- Assemblymember Holly Mitchell
- Assemblymember Julia Brownley
- Susanna Cooper, California Senate
- Rick Simpson, California Assembly
- Rachel Perry, CDE
- Luis Freedberg, EdSource
- Paul Richman, California PTA
- Ken Futernick, West Ed