



THINK TANK ON STATE POLICY TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

October 14, 2014

Motif Seattle, 1415 5th Avenue, Seattle
Pioneer Room

Agenda

7:30-8:30 AM

BREAKFAST

8:30-9:00 AM

INTRODUCTIONS AND PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Framing the Scope and Context of the Meeting:

The early childhood field is in the midst of a significant transformation with the influx of public investments targeted to provide more young children with access to high quality early education and care. Multiple policy drivers impact effective teaching, such as quality rating and improvement systems, state teacher evaluation systems, and program quality expansion. We know that in order to impact children's learning these policies must be implemented at a sufficient scale and depth at the local level to promote effective teaching and learning from birth through kindergarten.

9:00-10:30 AM

WHAT IS TEACHING QUALITY? PROVOCATION AND DISCUSSION

Provocation: Linda Darling-Hammond, Teaching Quality is defined as:

"Teaching quality refers to strong instruction that enables a wide range of students to learn. Teaching quality is in part a function of teacher quality—teachers' knowledge, skills, and dispositions—but it is also strongly influenced by the context of instruction: the curriculum and assessment system; the "fit" between teachers' qualifications and what they are asked to teach; and teaching conditions, such as time, class size, facilities, and materials. If teaching is to be

effective, policymakers must address the teaching and learning environment as well as the capacity of individual teachers."

Discussion Questions: (others will be added based on the pre-meeting readings):

- In what ways are we addressing this vision in policy and practice?
- What are the gaps, barriers and challenges we face in realizing this vision?
- What are the emerging trends, promising practices, policy conundrums to realizing this vision?

10:30-10:45 AM

BREAK

10:45-12:00 PM

WHAT ARE THE *CONSISTENT SUPPORTS AND SENSIBLE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS* NEEDED TO DRIVE TEACHING QUALITY THAT WILL RESULT IN IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN?

Moderated Panel: Selected Attendees representing research, advocacy and state/local policy makers will be invited to provide commentary regarding this central question.

Discussion among all participants

12:00-1:30 PM

WORKING LUNCH & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Participants will work in small groups on a problem of practice related to state policy to improve teaching and learning

1:30-2:00 PM

REFLECTIONS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS OF THE MORNING

2:00-3:30 PM

WHAT ARE THE "POWERFUL AND FEW" CRITICAL STATE POLICIES THAT IMPROVE TEACHING QUALITY AND RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN?

Facilitated Discussion of recommendations for state policy makers

3:30-3:45 PM

CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS