



CAN WE STOP THE INSANITY?

Creating Coherent Policy that Supports Great Teaching and Learning for All Young Children

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Goals for the Session

- Learn how two national organizations are convening experts and state leaders to identify the powerful and few state policies to improve teaching
- Discuss and provide input on four critical policy areas impacting effective state policy to improve teaching and learning
- Share new resources and best practices to support great teaching for all children birth through third grade



Purpose of the Project on Teaching and Learning

Think Tank, Working Paper and State Policy Learning Table are designed to help answer these questions:

- What are the *consistent supports and sensible accountability systems* needed to drive teaching quality that will result in improved outcomes for children?
- What guidance, advice or best practice can we give to states about the *powerful and few* core state policies that improve teaching quality and result in significant outcomes for children?



What is Teaching Quality?

Teaching quality = strong instruction = students learn

Teacher quality =

teachers' knowledge, skills, dispositions + context of instruction

- curriculum and assessment system;
- “fit” between teachers' qualifications and what they are asked to teach;
- teaching conditions, such as time, class size, facilities, and materials.

Policy (makers) must address the teaching and learning environment as well as the capacity of individual teachers.

Teaching Quality: Theory Of Change



Moving Toward Solutions: Research – Policy – Practice

- What are effective teaching practices that result in significant learning outcomes for young children?
 - High quality learning environments coupled with highly intentional and developmentally appropriate instruction
- How do we move these practices into policy and practice?
 - Implementation factors
 - Evidence-based Approaches
 - State and Local Capacity
 - Policy Coherence



Four Problems of Practice

1. Ensuring Racially, Culturally, and Linguistically Competent Teaching for Each and Every Child
2. Focusing Professional Development Policies on Effective Teaching Practices
3. Streamlining Accountability Structures that Impact Teaching Quality
4. Integrating Teaching Conditions into States' Professional Development and Accountability Structures



New Jersey's Perspective

Initiative Fatigue



Search ID: sden1156

"Well, Mr. Harris, I'm afraid you simply care too much. You have compassion fatigue."

New Jersey's Perspective: Focus & Goals

NJ Learning Table Focus

- Focusing Professional Development Policies on Effective Teaching Practices

Goals:

- Develop a plan to ensure that appropriate supports are in place to allow practitioners across all levels to utilize Grow NJ Kids
- Develop a plan to ensure that the above supports are sustainable

New Jersey's Perspective: Building Quality



- Grow NJ Kids (GNJK), our Quality Rating Improvement System
 - “Consumer Reports” of home, center and school-based care and education programs for birth to five.
- Training Academy
 - A regional resource for all early childhood programs in the state designed to make professional development *accessible* and *affordable*.

New Jersey's Perspective: Creating Coherence

What are the strategies to integrate goals into Training Academy?

- Directors/Administrators Track

What are the focal on questions of such a track?

- How do we develop instructional leaders in all auspices?
- What are the tiers that would need to be in place to support the track?
- How do we ensure cultural competencies are build in to all components?

Small Group Discussion on Problems of Practice

Discuss and briefly report out:

Problem 2: Streamlining Accountability Structures that Impact Teaching Quality

Guiding Question

- In what ways can the requirements of current early childhood accountability systems be better aligned so that teachers in both school, community, and home-based settings have coherent and equitable expectations for effective practice?

Emerging Ideas: Powerful and Few Policies

- Advance high quality preparation and professional development for teachers and instructional leaders
- Integrate teaching conditions in policy and practice
- Plan supports for implementation and sustainability



Next Steps and Resources

- We will post the materials and resources from the Learning Table on our websites
- Please share any ideas or best practices with Lori or Debi



Thank You

More Information:

<http://ceelo.org/teaching-and-learning/>

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