

Designing and Catalyzing Effective District Improvement: The Role of State Education Agencies

Monday, July 30 – Wednesday, August 1, 2007

The Viking Hotel, Newport, Rhode Island

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Monday, July 30

5:30 p.m.	Registration
7:00 p.m.	Welcoming Dinner

Tuesday, July 31

Day 1: Articulating the Problem Space

What do we mean by “district improvement”?

What are the central challenges to district improvement?

What role (can, do, should) state education agencies (SEAs) play with regard to district improvement?

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks
8:45 a.m.	Panel Presentation: Perspectives of District Administrators
9:45 a.m.	Panel Presentation: Perspectives of State Education Agency Leaders
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Panel Presentation: Perspectives of Researchers
11:45 a.m.	Group Discussion Session
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Small Group Problem-Solving Conversations <i>The symposium participants will engage in cross-role problem-solving discussions to collectively generate and propose alternate definitions of the problems affecting district improvement, identify innovative ideas, and develop recommendations for how SEAs could better support district improvement efforts.</i>
3:15 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	Gallery Walk and Group Discussion Session
4:30 p.m.	Break
5:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception

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Wednesday, August 1

Day 2: Catalyzing Conditions for District Improvement

What are the political and structural conditions (e.g. policy levers, incentives, and alternative governance structures) needed to help SEAs catalyze and meaningfully support district improvement efforts?

How can states, SEAs, and other stakeholders develop and sustain these conditions?

What are bold and innovative ideas to better support and enact district improvement throughout a state?

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Panel Presentation: Perspectives of Policy Actors
9:45 a.m.	Small Group Discussion Sessions <i>Participants having similar roles will consider and reflect upon the previous day's discussions in light of the broader observations and ideas presented in the morning's panel presentation. In particular, participants will identify which conditions would best support district-wide improvements throughout a state and what roles they could play to mobilize these conditions, and will also discuss which policies they feel would have the greatest potential for high impact.</i>
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Large Group Discussion: Sharing of Ideas and Perspectives <i>Each stakeholder group will briefly share ideas about the conditions that would best support district-wide improvement efforts throughout a state, and the roles that various stakeholders could play to mobilize these conditions.</i>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Final Session: Identification and Articulation of Central Themes and Open Discussion
3:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks