



*Working to strengthen the System of Support for every student.*

## The CCEE Connection

SEPTEMBER 2019 UPDATE

### SAVE THE DATE: Thurs, NOV. 14 CCEE's 'Equity In Action' Event

The CCEE is excited to host **Equity in Action: A Real-Time Look at What's Working in California Schools** on Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 10am-2pm at The Library Galleria located in Sacramento, Ca.

From supporting English learners and foster youth to removing barriers to African American achievement, attendees will:

- Learn directly from educators who are leading the way in delivering equity in California.
- Gain practical insights into how educators are collaborating and innovating to tackle complex and pervasive challenges.
- Get connected to resources that are helping local districts succeed.



Please visit [ccee-ca.org](http://ccee-ca.org) for event updates. Information will also be included in upcoming editions of The CCEE Connection.

### SYSTEM OF SUPPORT UPDATE

#### Input Sessions Completed for 21st Century CA School Leadership Academy

The [California Department of Education](http://www.cde.ca.gov) (CDE) and CCEE held three webinars to gather input about the creation of the [21st Century California School Leadership Academy](http://www.cde.ca.gov) (21CSLA), a statewide professional learning initiative for administrators and other school leaders under the System of Support. During these sessions, the audience was provided an overview of the initiative and provided feedback on "critical areas." Below are links to materials stemming from the three webinars including a survey to offer additional input.

[21CSLA Survey](#) • [21CSLA Webinar Recordings](#) • [21CSLA Slide Deck](#)

Additional information can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ai/ca21csla.asp>. If you would like to receive updates, please join CDE's 21CSLA listserv by sending a blank message to [join-21csla@mlist.cde.ca.gov](mailto:join-21csla@mlist.cde.ca.gov).

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

The CCEE serves as a co-lead of the statewide [Community Engagement Initiative](#) (CEI) within the [System of Support](#).

This month, the CEI kicks off its first meeting in San Jose, Ca with the **six districts** that have been selected to participate in the **Professional Leading and Learning Network Cohort I (PLLN Cohort I)**. The cohort's objectives over the next three years include defining common characteristics/best practices in community engagement; identifying/testing metrics for measuring increases in community engagement; and selecting other teams that would benefit from and be successful in improvement community engagement. For more information, please visit the [CEI webpage](#) at [ccee-ca.org](http://ccee-ca.org).

## Thoughts from the CCEE Team

### Understanding Continuous Improvement

By Tom Armelino, CCEE Executive Director

Over the summer, my team and I have been reflecting deeply on what it means to be a CI statewide agency. We have asked each other tough questions, opened our minds to new ideas, and reached a consensus on the elements of CI we believe define our work.

Because California's new approach to school accountability is centered on the principles of continuous improvement, I believe this type of organizational self-reflection is extremely beneficial for educational entities at all levels across the state.

I often find that we, as educational leaders, assume there is common knowledge of what CI is and what it looks like. But once you dig deeper, individuals in different organizations, and at times within the same organization, may not always share a similar understanding. Yet, in order to improve outcomes for students, it becomes clear that systemic and sustainable change first requires agreement and a clear understanding of what it means to “continuously improve.”

Education reporter and data journalist Sarah D. Sparks defined continuous improvement in the [February 6, 2018 edition of Education Week](#) as “a cyclical process intended to help groups of people in a system—from a class to a school district or even a network of many districts—set goals, identify ways to improve, and evaluate change.”

[Anthony Bryk](#), president of the [Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](#), states that continuous improvement is “the act of integrating quality improvement into the daily work of individuals in the system.”

Whatever definition, body of research, or model your organization may subscribe to, I think it is critically important for education leaders and their teams to pause, reflect, and dialogue about the elements of continuous improvement they believe will help improve teaching and learning at the local level.

At the CCEE, we are excited to continue working collectively with COEs and other partners to help LEAs foster a culture of continuous improvement. We are also committed to building statewide capacity to implement CI strategies by developing and offering free, customizable resources.

Later this month, the CCEE will publish a [Continuous Improvement Toolkit](#) which includes best practices, lessons learned, and activities/protocols that stem from our grassroots work with 12 LEAs through a series of multiyear partnerships. Additional resources will be added to the toolkit over the course of this school year based on the emerging needs of educators and education stakeholders. Visit the CCEE's website [ccee-ca.org](http://ccee-ca.org) to access the toolkit which will be housed in [CCEE's Resource Collection](#).

On behalf of the CCEE team, I embrace the incredible privilege and opportunity to help strengthen California's public school system so that every student receives a quality, equitable education. We are here to help you continuously improve.

Here's to a wonderful school year!



Tom Armelino, CCEE Executive Director



CCEE Executive Tom Armelino

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— Tom Armelino, CCEE Executive Director

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