

TEACH + PLUS

Good afternoon educators,

On Tuesday, the National Center for Educational Statistics released [results](#) from the most recent national assessment of fourth and eighth graders in math and reading. A lot of [news](#) outlets wrote about it, advocates debated the implications and [academics](#) urged caution in drawing too many conclusions. For me, while I was encouraged to see some progress on our students' reading outcomes, I just couldn't help but focus on the persistent and in some case widening gaps in outcomes for our students of color and low-income students.

When I see data that says that only 10% of black students and 15% of Latino students in California met expectations in eighth-grade math, my sense of urgency to push policymakers at state and local levels to do more is only heightened. And we are at a moment in our state when we can set that path to do more to focus on these startling inequities.

Tomorrow's [State Board of Education meeting](#) is presumably the Board's last step in submitting California's State Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act. This plan should reflect California's vision for a system of data transparency, accountability and support that is focused on addressing systemic inequities. Teach Plus joined with the LCFF Equity Coalition to highlight how this plan falls short in identifying how the state will support struggling schools, including how educator, community and student stakeholders will be involved in this work. It also stressed the state's role in ensuring that part of that system of support should include ensuring equitable access to effective, experienced and properly-trained educators.

We hope that the current conversations about addressing persistent achievement and opportunity gaps highlights the importance of increased advocacy from teachers and community stakeholders. We are proud to work alongside excellent educators committed to creating better opportunities for students, and look forward to sharing their tremendous work in this current newsletter. If you are interested in partnering with us, or learning more about our work, please contact our [Program Coordinator](#).

With gratitude,

Sarah

POLICY FELLOW SPOTLIGHT: Current Teaching Policy Fellow Spencer Burrows with students in Sacramento. Spencer's students were able to meet with Senators Allen and Bloom during their trip to the Capitol.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Teach Plus Policy Alumna Lindsey Bird has been increasing her efforts to advocate for newcomer and refugee students in Modesto. Read more about her work [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENT:

The current cohort of Teaching Policy Fellows will be hosting Dr. Travis Bristol for a conversation on ways to support teachers of color in Los Angeles Unified School District.

This event will happen at the California Community Foundation from 5:30-7pm on April 19, 2018.

Space is limited.

If you are interested in attending please [RSVP](#) below.

[I Want to Attend "Teacher Diversity Matters"](#)

Join UCLA Center X on April 25th to watch a screening of "The Long View", a documentary chronicles the efforts of Oakland students, parents, educators, and organizers to address systemic inequities in the city's public school system.

[RSVP here.](#)



Live in San Bernardino? The Education Trust West is hosting two conversations with State Superintendent Candidates Marshall Tuck and Assemblymember Tony Thurmond. These Saturday dialogues are designed to give local educators, parents, students and community members the opportunity to learn more about each candidates' plan for the future of California's K-12 education system. Lunch and Childcare Provided – Space is limited. [RSVP here.](#)



PRACTICE UPDATE:

As this round of Teacher-Led Practice Networks (TLPN) comes to a close we wanted to highlight the experience of one of our Teacher Leaders: Maria Covarrubias. Maria is an English teacher at Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, Dalzell Lance campus in the Pico Union community in Los Angeles.

"Initially, my primary interest in the program was based on my desire to focus on instruction design and collaboration. The emphasis on the problem-solving cycle as a way to better our teaching practice, and the individual coaching specific to each teacher leader seemed to provide exactly the support I was looking for.

I think that this program has been instrumental in my growth both as a teacher leader and in my practice in the classroom. As a teacher in the middle of her 8th year in the classroom, this program has reinvigorated me and given me the tools to continue to push myself to be effective at differentiating and pushing students to master more rigorous work. I would highly encourage any teacher interested in expanding their capacity as a teacher leader to participate in this program. Especially in relation to department and PLC work, this program can be instrumental in supporting peer-leaders who may not be in authority positions to get their teams to buy-in and engage with meaningful work. "

Teacher-Led Practice Networks (TLPN) offered through Teach Plus engages and develops excellent teachers as leaders to generate, manage, and implement change in teacher practice to affect students' success. We work in partnerships with school sites, networks, and districts to recruit, select, and train highly effective teachers to lead school-based professional learning communities. Please contact [Sunny Min](#), Teacher Engagement Manager for more information.

Apply for SEL Innovation Grant:

Education First is proud to once again seek applications for teacher-led projects that foster social and emotional learning (SEL) skills in students in grades PK-12 through the NoVo Foundation Social Emotional Learning Innovation Fund.

Though all proposals are welcome, we are also seeking proposals that specifically serve one of the following student populations:

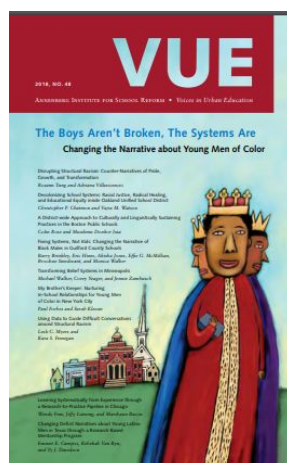
- Students from indigenous communities
- New arrivals (such as refugees) or immigrants
- English learners
- LGBTQI students

Application materials can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is Friday, April 20 at 5:00pm PT.

GOOD READS:

On Tuesday, the LAUSD School Board took action trying to make up for inadequacies in the state implementation of LCFF. They voted to establish a school performance framework providing more meaningful and transparent information to families, educators and students, and they voted to add factors to its "[Student Equity Needs Index](#)," a formula it has used to divvy up a relatively small portion of its overall budget to around 780 schools across the district since 2014.

The latest issue of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform focuses on how to change the narrative about young men of color. Read the [online version here](#).



The Commission on Teacher Credentialing will be meeting on Thursday and Friday of this week. They will be discussing the most recent [report](#) on teacher supply in California, which shows an increase of 6.8 percent in the number of newly issued credentials.