



CALIFORNIA  
EDUCATION GPS

BY THE ALLIANCE FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

# CALIFORNIA EDUCATION GPS

A VITAL NEW POLICY RESOURCE FOR CALIFORNIA'S  
ELECTED LEADERS AND POLICYMAKERS

The California Education GPS articulates a shared vision for the state's public education system and reflects the input and consensus of the **Alliance for Continuous Improvement** – a broad-based group of dedicated leaders and experts representing parents, students, teachers, administrators, school boards, higher education, early learning, community and social justice causes, business, research, and local and state agencies.

The GPS briefly describes the significant, foundational investments and changes to our state's public education system made in recent years, then offers a clear, research-based route forward for advancing and strengthening the system so that it meets and exceeds the needs of all students – and ensures California's future economic and civic success.

By focusing on these key policy steps in the upcoming years, state leaders can best create the circumstances locally to achieve the vision for California's students and schools.



CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE  
IS RIDING ON OUR  
PUBLIC EDUCATION  
SYSTEM.

[www.caledgps.org](http://www.caledgps.org)



The Alliance for Continuous Improvement is a project of the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation

CALIFORNIANS DEDICATED TO  
EDUCATION

## DESTINATION:

We envision a high-achieving public education system for California that is student-centered, learning-oriented, continuously improving, equitable, and engages all families and communities.

## RECOMMENDED ROUTE:

What happens in the next few years is critical to ensuring opportunity and success for all students. California's future depends on our staying committed to the educational path we are on - and continuing to invest in it, learn from it, and improve it.

State policymakers should recognize that it will take time and discipline to reach the ultimate destination. The state can best fulfill its essential role by focusing on a series of strategic steps that will strengthen and accelerate the changes set in place.

1. Invest fully and equitably in students.
2. Continue to build the capacity of educators, schools and districts to ensure that all students have access to, and are provided with, a broad course of study based on the California State Standards - one that is rigorous, relevant for the 21st Century, promotes critical thinking and deeper learning, and is inclusive of social and emotional learning.
3. Advance and expand whole-child supports that are vital for the long-term development and success of all students - especially vulnerable and underserved students - including positive school climate and conditions for all students, families, and educators.
4. Propel efforts to recruit, prepare, develop and retain a diverse and well-supported educator workforce, including teachers and school leaders, to address persistent staffing shortages in critical subject areas and parts of the state - and advance student achievement.
5. Expand access to early learning.
6. Ensure timely and robust data is available, including data that connects information among early education, K-12, and higher education; informs local planning and decision-making; and spotlights promising practices and inequities.
7. Reinforce the systemwide focus on capacity building, accountability and continuous improvement, and
8. Evaluate regularly the state's own performance in fulfilling its crucial responsibilities.

**See more details, recommendations and related research for each step by visiting the California Education GPS.**

Photos courtesy of Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action

[www.caledgps.org](http://www.caledgps.org)



The Alliance for Continuous Improvement is a project of the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation