A Bird’s Eye View of PreK-3rd

Spotting Changes at the National and Federal Level

Lisa Guernsey
Presentation at Erikson Institute
March 31, 2011

What is PreK-3rd reform?

- A strategy
  » Not just a batch of grade levels
- A set of interlocking pieces
  » Alignment and interconnection
    - Between and across grades
    - Between and across standards
    - Between and across assessment tools
- Access and Quality
  » Access to high-quality full-day pre-k*
  » Full-day kindergarten
  » Rich, aligned instruction, grade by grade: K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd
Why undertake PreK-3rd reform?

- To leverage pre-k gains, render ‘fade-out’ defunct
- To close achievement gaps
- To eliminate fragmentation
  - Creating a continuous, unbroken path for children’s learning, building from one grade to another
- To improve how teachers interact with young children
  - Building high-quality classroom interactions – DAP, playful learning approaches & social-emotional learning coupled with cognitive development
Signs of a broken system…

National Reading Scores - 4th Grade

- Unable to read at grade level
- Reading at grade level

SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2009
NOTE: Proficiency equated with grade-level competence.
PreK-3rd reform’s 5 core components
according to the Foundation for Child Development

1. Alignment
2. School organization
3. Qualified teachers
4. Classrooms as learning environments
5. Accountability to parents and communities

@ www.fcd-us.org
More on alignment

- PreK-3rd Implementation and Evaluation Framework (to come)
  - by Kristie Kauerz, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Julia Coffman, Center for Evaluation Innovation
- Kauerz’s “pop-beads” analogy
- Vertical and horizontal alignment within and outside grades
- Aligning governance structures, teaching and leadership practices, instructional tools, teaching and learning culture, mechanisms to engage families, etc.

Is an effective system in place at each level?

SOURCE: Kauerz presentation at New America Foundation, March 2011
This is more than Pre-K + K-3
Progress Nationally:
In Pockets Across the U.S.

Glimpses of PreK-3rd reform in progress...

- Red Bank, Elizabeth & Union City, NJ
- Montgomery County, Md
- Tulsa, OK
- Bremerton, WA
- San Antonio, TX
- Richmond, VA
- Arlington and Alexandria, VA
- Chicago, IL
- *Many others coming along...*
- *All at various stages: nobody has it all figured out...*
Systemic Reform Will Include

- Parent groups
- Community providers
- School principals and teachers
- School districts
- State agencies
- Federal agencies

*Each holds essential pieces of the puzzle.*

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*Education Reform Starts Early: Lessons from New Jersey’s PreK-3rd Reform Efforts, December 2009*
In Elizabeth, NJ …

- 2/3 are Latino, 1/4 are African American, 1/10 are Asian or White
- 75 percent are poor (FRPL)
- Reading and math achievement was low

But after 3 years of PreK-3rd approaches:

- 80 percent reading at grade level
  - on NJASK in 4th Grade
- 88 percent, if you look at those who started with pre-k
  - Better than statewide average
  - Closing achievement gap

What did Elizabeth do right?

- High-quality pre-k for all
  - Not just an add-on
  - Includes 9 community-based providers
  - Pre-k teachers receive early literacy training
- Early elementary teachers received 60 hours of PD on early literacy in the first year - trained in needs of bilingual students and special-needs students
- ‘Intensive Early Literacy’ program in partnership with state
Progress at the Federal Level: Setting the Stage

The view from the balcony

- Collaborative directors
- Myriad actors
- An incomplete script
- Funding, sort of
- Cliffhangers to come
- Keeping the lights on

Photo by AKMA on Flickr via Creative Commons license
The feds are prepping the stage

Collaborative directors
- Jacqueline Jones, Dept of Ed
- Joan Lombardi, Dept of HHS

Emphasizing ‘Birth to 8’
- Early Childhood Advisory Councils too?

RTTT and i3 application criteria
- Speak of linking pre-k, kindergarten and early grades

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems
- The latest goal: including pre-k, Head Start and other ECE data in state systems of student growth

Interagency Policy Board – Now meeting

Corralling the myriad actors

- Head Start
  - Re-competition and performance standards review
- Child Care Development Fund
- IDEA programs for infants, toddlers, preschool
- Promise Neighborhoods grants
- Investing in Innovation (i3) grants
- Race to the Top (RTTT) grants
- Data system grants (SLDS)
- Title I and Title II clarification?
Are they in sync?

Both nationally and federally

**Education reform’s incomplete script**

- Access to pre-k?
- Where is full-day kindergarten?
- What about K-3rd grade improvement?
- What’s the role of School Improvement Grants (SIG)?
  - *Conversation is focused on middle and high schools*
The funding situation

Federal Funding, 2007-10

*Calculated based on assumptions of percentage of children ages 0 through 5 served by those funds

Source: US Depts of Ed and HHS; New America analysis

New America Foundation
What does federal funding look like through 3rd grade?

Federal Funding 2007-10

* Calculated based on assumptions of percentage of children ages 0 through 8 served by those funds.

Source: US Dept of Ed and HHS; New America analysis
FY10 Funding vs. FY11 Request

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2010 Level</th>
<th>President’s Request</th>
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Awaiting resolution on FY11

- Currently operating under Continuing Resolution
  - Expires April 8
  - Disappointment that the Senate Omnibus didn’t see light of day – included Early Learning Challenge Fund
  - The ARRA cliff soon to become reality for Head Start, childcare?
  - House Rs want to shave $50-$60 billion off of FY10 budget, return to FY08 levels
## FY11 so far…

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## FY12 Obama’s request to Congress

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### Zooming in on i3

*The winners paying attention to PreK-3rd ideas, acc to EarlyEdWatch.net:

- Teach for America ($50 mil)
- Appletree Institute ($5 mil)
- Parents as Teachers – BabyFACE ($14 mil)
- Erikson Institute ($5 mil)
- Miami-Dade Public Schools ($5 mil)
- Los Angeles USD* ($4.9 mil)
- North Star – MCPS, Md.* ($5 mil)

*Unclear from application exactly how early learning linkages will be supported

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### Other action, on the national level & federal levels

- ‘Superman’ic emphasis on charters, turnarounds
  » *Distraction or opportunity?*
- Defining ‘effective’ teachers
  » *Distraction or opportunity?*
- Common Core State Standards Initiative
  » *Alignment with early learning standards?*
Cliffhangers

• FY11 Appropriations
• ESEA (aka No Child Left Behind)
  • 15 national and research organizations signed consensus letter to Congress

Other laws due for reauthorization:
  » Child Care Development Block Grants (last authorized in 1995)
  » IDEA? (last authorized in 2004)

Keeping the lights on

• Impact of budget reform and budget cuts?
  • What would a big cut to Head Start and/or Title I mean to PreK-3rd reform?
  • Many states reeling, proposing cuts to funding that is used in PreK-3rd grades
  • Reality: U.S. debt is on track to equal 89 percent of GDP by 2020. ('Sustainable' debt level = 60 percent.)
  • http://crfb.org/stabilizethe债务/
12 Ideas for Early Education in the 112th Congress,
Feb. 2011

1. Third Prep-32, and 6-12.
   Resources from New America
   New America Foundation

2. In great competition, fewer states with effective early learning strategies.
   New America Foundation

Resources from New America

New America Foundation
Getting in Sync: Revamping Licensing and Preparation for Teachers in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and the Early Grades, March 2011

Many Missing Pieces: The Difficult Task of Linking Early Childhood Data and School-Based Data Systems, Oct. 2010
Education Reform Starts Early: Lessons from New Jersey’s PreK-3rd Reform Efforts, December 2009

A Next Social Contract for the Primary Years of Education, March 2010
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