

Accountability Evaluation
Interview Protocol: State Policy Makers

MAP is a private consulting firm working as a subcontractor to WestEd on a project funded by the California Department of Education.

The study I am working on is investigating the relationship between state level accountability policies and procedures and what actually happens in school districts, schools and classrooms. Today I would like to focus on the perspective of state-level policy makers.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

Note: During interview, keep a running record of all relevant materials mentioned, and ask for them at the end of the interview.

Name:

Title:

Years in position:

Previous experience:

1. Describe your involvement in developing an accountability system for California public schools. What is the current status of those activities? What are the next steps?
2. What is the purpose of a state level accountability system?
3. What should drive the accountability system? (Prompts: Standards? Achievement Test Results? Multiple Measures?)
4. What are the appropriate indicators the state should use? (Prompts: Meeting specified levels of standards, improvement in performance, STAR Tests, Matrix Sample tests, etc.)
5. What is the appropriate state role in an accountability system? What role, if any, should each of the following play in an state level accountability system:
 - Governor
 - Legislature
 - State Board of Education
 - State Superintendent of Public Instruction
6. What are the appropriate state interventions, rewards, sanctions, etc. to insure that there are consequences for school performance? What are the appropriate consequences for:
 - School Districts
 - Schools
 - Principals

- Teachers
 - Students
 - Parents
7. What are the most likely impediments to the adoption of an accountability system? How can these impediments be removed?
 8. What are the most likely impediments to the successful implementation of an accountability system? How will these impediments be removed?
 9. What other state policies affect the direction and implementation of a state level accountability system? Which state policies, programs or initiatives appear to be working best at driving stronger local accountability?
 10. What is the appropriate role of local stakeholders in a state accountability system?
 - District Governing Boards
 - District Superintendents
 - Principals
 - Teachers
 - Parents
 11. Are there other issues or concerns related to accountability that need to be addressed?