



Championing the Success of English Learners

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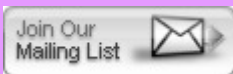
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State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Chooses Respected Scholar and Author to Head English Learner Efforts

SACRAMENTO-Karen Cadiero-Kaplan, a leading scholar, published author and longtime advocate for students, will lead the California Department of Education's (CDE) efforts to help school districts across the state teach English learners effectively, California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced today.

Cadiero-Kaplan is a professor at San Diego State University, where she chairs the Department of Policy Studies in Language and Cross Cultural Education, focusing on biliteracy and English language acquisition.

She began her career teaching elementary and secondary special education, as well as English as a Second Language at the community college level, and went on to become a professor and a provider of professional development for teachers and administrators working with bilingual students.

"In a state where a quarter of students come to school needing to learn English, it's impossible to overstate the importance of being equipped to teach them," said California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

"We have made great strides at the Department of Education, and, with Dr. Cadiero-Kaplan at the helm of those efforts, I have no doubt we'll make many more."

She will be leading the CDE's English Learner Support Division, which Torlakson created so that schools could effectively address a growing need in communities across California. He also created an English Learner Integrated Action Team within the department, which is developing a statewide plan for English learners to better support districts and schools. Cadiero-Kaplan has a range of publications focused on the role of education and language policies in curriculum development and teachers' professional development, including "The Literacy Curriculum & Bilingual Education: A Critical Examination."

She is a past president of the California Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (CATESOL), past vice president of the CATESOL Education Foundation and current president of Californians Together. Cadiero-Kaplan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of San Diego in psychology and elementary education and a master's degree in cross-cultural education, special education and ESL from San Diego State University. She also holds a doctorate in curriculum development and instruction from Claremont Graduate University and San Diego State University.

She will join the California Department of Education in mid-January.

As we congratulate Karen on her appointment, we welcome and support Michael Matsuda as the new President of Californians Together.

Californians Together Accomplishments for 2010-2011

This was a very important year for the work of Californians Together. All of you and our member organizations contributed to the amazing efforts listed below in our end of the year summary of accomplishments. We look forward to our continued advocacy and leadership locally and state wide for improved policy and practice for education California's English learners. Happy New Year!

1. Appointment of Dr. Karen Cadiero Kaplan by Supt. Torlakson as new Director of the English Learner Services Division in the California Department of Education.
2. Passage of AB 815 (Brownley) - State Seal of Biliteracy.
3. Passage of AB 124 (Fuentes) - Revision, updated and alignment of ELD Standards to the ELA Common Core.
4. 62 districts/county offices with formal Seal of Biliteracy recognition programs
5. Organization Executive Director appointed to Superintendent Tom Torlakson's Transition Team.
6. Four applicants being considered for appointment to State Board of Education.
7. Opportunity for quarterly meetings with the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
8. Superintendent cosponsored AB 124 and supported AB 815.

9. Superintendent Transition Team report, *Blueprint for Great Schools*, supports biliteracy and valid and reliable assessments for Els.
10. *Reparable Harm* presentations to many district/county offices and conferences.
11. *Reparable Harm* went into third printing.
12. Laurie Olsen presented on *Reparable Harm* - Long Term English Learner. research to the US Dept. of Education and 11,000 viewed the web streaming.
13. Two national webinars : Seal of Biliteracy and *Reparable Harm*.
14. Seal of Biliteracy Video funded and produced with support from the Comprehensive Assistance Center at West Ed directed by Dr. Fred Tempes.
15. Seal of Biliteracy Video showed at California Department of Education EL Accountability and Leadership Conference general session.
16. 900 video donated by the Comprehensive Assistance Center at West Ed to distribute to each EL Accountability Conference participant.
17. CDE signed on to Smarter Balance federal testing consortium as a governing state.
18. CDE submitted an application for new English Language Proficiency exams as lead state (but it was not funded).
19. Four appointments to the Striving Readers Committee and major EL language added to federal application and plan.
20. Several organization members presented to the Latino Legislative Caucus Education Summit.
21. Passage of AB 1088 - inclusion language for Asian Pacific Islander communities in reporting for several state departments.
22. EL Language and P 21 language in AB 250 (Brownley) - Common Core implementation.
23. Passage of SB 753 (Padilla) - new CELDT annual testing window.
24. Passage of DREAM Act AB 130 and AB 131 (Cedillo)
25. National Council of La Raza grant to educate coalition and advocate for EL sensitive implementation of Common Core Standards
26. Grant from California Community Foundation to support implementation of K-12 tri-district plan to prevent and support Long Term English learners as part of the El Monte Community Based Initiative
27. Two successful conferences (north and south) on Preventing Long Term English Learners
28. Four luncheons sponsored by publishers to work with the County Bilingual Coordinators Network
29. Two board members chosen to represent state Campaign for

High School Equity at national conferences focused on Common Core and communities of color

30. Presentation by Martha Zaragoza Diaz at ETS national meeting on EL sensitive assessment issues
31. Two new members to Californians Together: National Association of Multicultural Education and United Teachers of Los Angeles
32. Continuation of Alejo lawsuit - to enforce continued categorical program and funding monitoring
33. Representatives presented at Congressman Joe Baca's Education Summit
34. Creation of the Seal of Biliteracy Medallions and self-adhesive Seals
35. Written response to Berkeley CELDT study referenced in Education Week blog
36. California Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved the World Languages - English Language Development credential