

Sample Talking Points for School Districts

The Laws and Education Equity

- The Williams legislation is a package of state laws designed to benefit public school students by helping ensure they have equal educational opportunities.
- The legislation calls for identifying and correcting problems and conditions in public schools that can impede student achievement.
- The laws require that:
 - All students have access to standards-aligned instructional materials and textbooks.
 - All students have access to school facilities that are clean, safe, and functional.
 - All teachers are properly assigned and have proper certification or training.

Rankings and Context

- All public schools in California must meet the requirements of Williams. However, the legislation's focus is on the low performing schools – those at the bottom third in state academic rankings. Up to 2.3 million California students may benefit from funding from Williams, including students in our district.
- In Contra Costa County for 2009-10, there are a total of 53 schools in 5 districts that have been identified as low-performing schools. The _____ School District is one of those 5 districts; the _____ School District has _____ of the low-performing school(s).
- The Williams legislation does not provide a total solution for schools. The biggest inequity problem is that education funding in California is still among the lowest in the nation.

School Visits and Notification

- Each county superintendent of schools in the state is required to monitor and report on the progress of correcting problems and conditions at the deciles 1-3 schools.
- We are looking forward to and welcome periodic visits by Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Joseph A. Owick, Ed.D. and his staff at the County Office of Education, to the school(s) in our district. We will cooperate fully with them.
- We have already established a convenient notification and reporting process for our students, parents and community at-large so they can maintain their involvement in the monitoring process. We are also using our School Accountability Report Cards to detail our continued progress.
- We, at the _____ School District, care about the needs of our students and helping them toward academic achievement. We fully expect that the activities required by these new laws will mean only minimal disruptions to the learning environment of our school(s).

