



Fourth Annual High School Policy Conference From No Child Left Behind to Every Child a Graduate

**October 4-5, 2007
Washington Court Hotel
Washington, DC**

AGENDA Thursday, October 4

- 8:30am **Welcome**
Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education
- 8:45am **In Need of Improvement: NCLB and High Schools**
NCLB made closing the achievement gap a national priority. However, it failed to thoughtfully address the needs of high school students – whether through weak requirements for graduation rates or school improvement mandates that are not designed for the upper grades. This session charts a new course for making NCLB work well in high schools.
- Introductory Remarks**
Bethany Little, Alliance for Excellent Education
- Panel Response**
Jill Morningstar, House Education and Labor Committee – Majority Staff
Kirsten Duncan, House Education and Labor Committee – Minority Staff
Melissa Rohrbach, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee – Majority Staff
Lindsay Hunsicker, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee – Minority Staff
- 9:45am Break
- 10:00am **International Benchmarking 21st Century Standards**
Andreas Schleicher, OECD
- 11:00am **College and Work Readiness: Raising Standards and Improving Assessments**
The emerging consensus is that success in college and success in the workplace require similar skills from high school graduates. However, our current system of standards and expectations are both low and haphazard.

This panel explores how shared standards and rigorous assessments can raise the bar and ensure our high school students are prepared for success.

Panel

Ronald Williams, The College Board
Goodwin Liu, University of California-Berkeley
Gene Wilhoit, Council of Chief State School Officers
Jason Snipes, Council of the Great City Schools
Mike Petrilli, Fordham Foundation (moderator)

12:30pm

LUNCH

2:00pm

Accountability for What Matters: Measuring High Schools

The accountability system leveraged under No Child Left Behind is sorely mismatched to the goal of high school improvement. It lacks meaningful measures of high school performance and growth, consequently doing a poor job of identifying and prioritizing low performing schools. This panel will explore the possibilities of a federal high school accountability system that builds off those at the state and district level to focus on high school results, provide transparency and consistency, and lead inextricably to meaningful high school improvement.

Panel

Scott Palmer, Holland & Knight
Mitch Chester, Ohio Department of Education
Kirsten Vital, Oakland Unified School District
Delia Pompa, NCLR
Chris Swanson, Education Week (moderator)

3:30pm

Break

3:45pm

Ensuring Systemic Improvement: Turning Around Low-Performing High Schools

Given the unique nature of each school's students and faculty, needs, and capacity, one-size-fits-all strategies—such as those required under NCLB—will not leverage sustainable and systemic high school improvement. This panel will explore the federal role in demanding a focus on high school improvement and building the state, district, and school capacity to implement data-driven strategies.

Panel

Bob Balfanz, Johns Hopkins University
Dane Linn, National Governors Association
JoEllen Lynch, New York City Department of Education
Michael Durr, John Hope High School, Chicago, IL
Monica Martinez, KnowledgeWorks Foundation (moderator)

6:00-8:00pm

Reception

Dirksen Senate Office Building G50

Join the Alliance for Excellent Education and Jobs for the Future for a cocktail reception on Capitol Hill sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Richard Burr.

Friday, October 5

- 8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30am **Welcome**
Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education
- 8:45am **Improving Teacher Effectiveness in Low-Performing High Schools**
Student learning is the primary measure of effective teaching, but effectiveness must be measured in multiple ways that are accurate and actionable at the high school level. And measuring is only helpful if it is used to improve teaching and ensure that the best teachers work with struggling students. This panel explores the role of federal policy in measuring and improving teaching and how data can be used to better distribute teachers to improve low-performing high schools.
- Panel**
Rene Islas, Baker Daniels
Wesley Williams, Ohio Department of Education
Mike Gass, Eagle County Schools, Eagle, CO
Lauren Wilson, Battle Mountain High School
Craig Jerald, Strong American Schools (moderator)
- 10:15am Break
- 10:30am **The High School of the 21st Century: Innovating for Equity and Excellence**
Bill Gates called the American high school “obsolete.” Without the opportunity to try innovative approaches to increasing achievement and graduation rates, high schools will remain obsolete. In a world in which a meaningful high school diploma has become the *minimum* qualification for college or work, too many students, particularly poor students and students of color, are allowed to fall off the path to prosperity. This panel will address the question, “How can NCLB stimulate innovation in high schools so that *all* students are prepared to compete in a global economy?”
- Panel**
Adria Steinberg, Jobs for the Future
Charity Smith, Arkansas Department of Education
Ref Rodriguez, PUC Charter Schools, Burbank, CA
John Jackson, Schott Foundation
Tom Toch, Education Sector (moderator)
- 12:30pm **LUNCH with Keynote Remarks**
Paul Vallas, New Orleans Recovery School District
- 1:30pm **Closing Remarks**
Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education