Equity & the New Accountability System

What's at Stake for Black, Brown, & Poor Students?

The Education Trust–West

The Education Trust – West is an Oakland-based statewide educational policy, research, and advocacy organization that works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, pre-K through college. We expose opportunity and achievement gaps that separate students of color and low-income students from other youth, and we identify and advocate for the strategies that will forever close those gaps.

What if…

A school could be a "good" school, even if some groups of students were failing?

A school could be a "good" school,
even if students weren't learning?

A school could fail its students of color year after year, or decade after decade, with no consequences?

Technical support and assistance are slow to arrive or tinker at the margins? And parents keep hearing: change takes time?

What if we don't even know which schools are strong and which aren't?

Guiding Questions

What are the proposals on the table for California's new accountability system?

How would the different accountability measures, like the LCFF Evaluation Rubric and others, fit together?

What does the current debate around accountability mean for equity in education?

What do we mean by "Accountability?"

1. **Resource accountability***

2. **Professional accountability**

3. **Performance accountability**
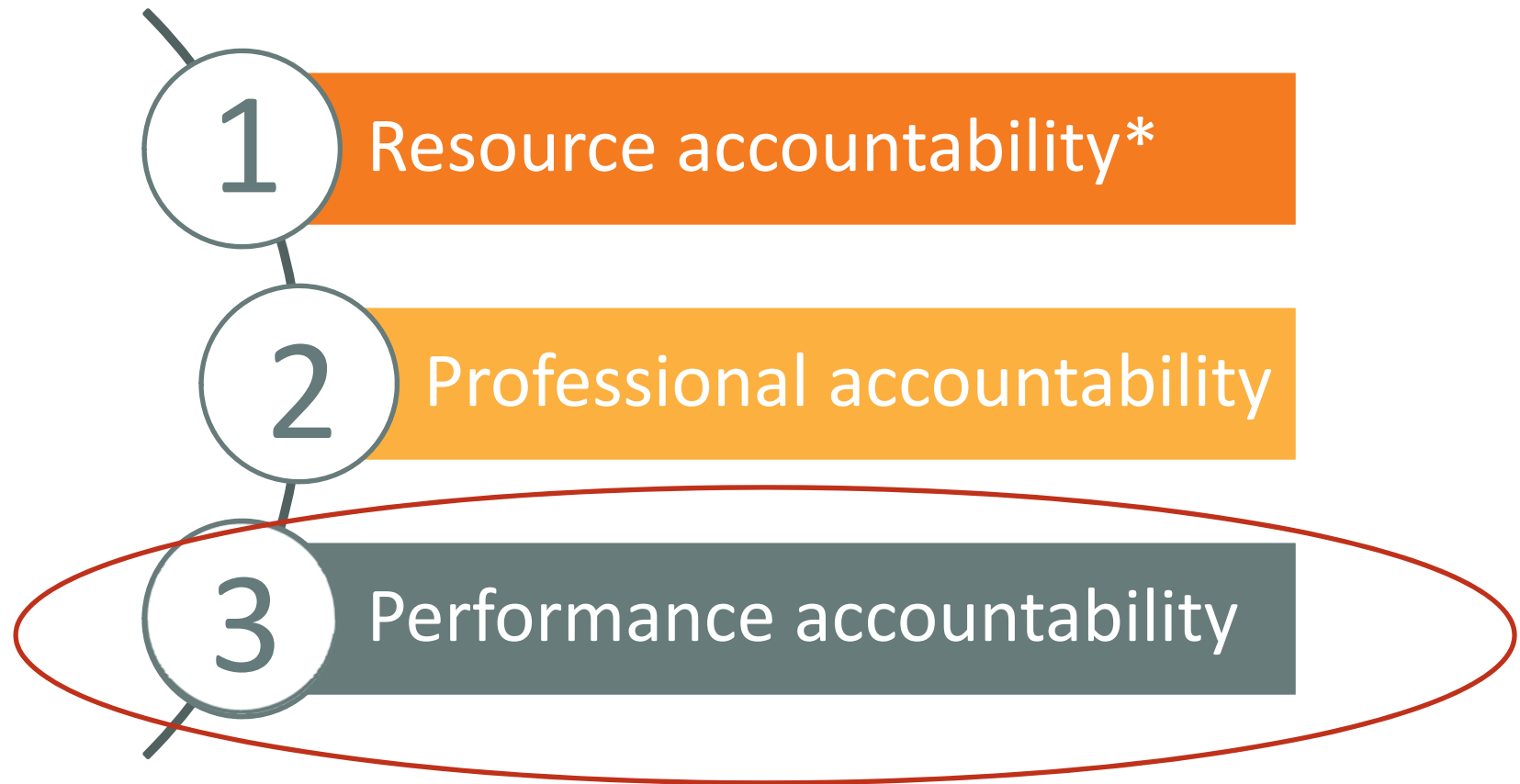
Modified from Linda Darling-Hammond & David Plank, *Supporting Continuous Improvement in California's Education System*, January 2015
*Note: Darling Hammond and Plank use the term "political accountability" instead of "resource accountability"

K-12 Enrollment in California, 2013-14

- 3%
- 1%
- 2%
- 1%
- 25%
- 9%
- 6%
- 53%

Legend:
- Latino
- African-American
- Asian
- White
- Multiple/No Response
- American Indian
- Filipino
- Pacific Islander
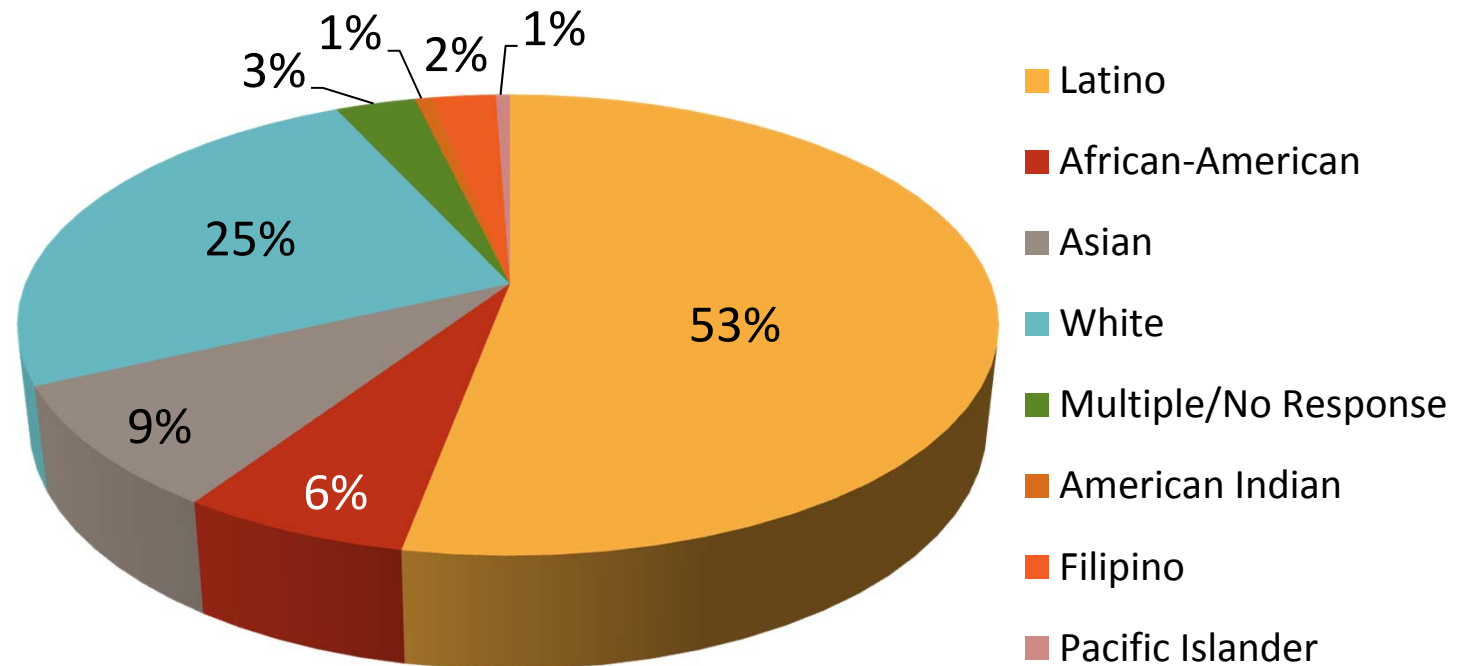
- 6.2 million students served
- 59% Economically disadvantaged (FRPM)

- 1.4 million English learners – more English learners than the entire student populations of 40 states

Source: California Department of Education, 2014.

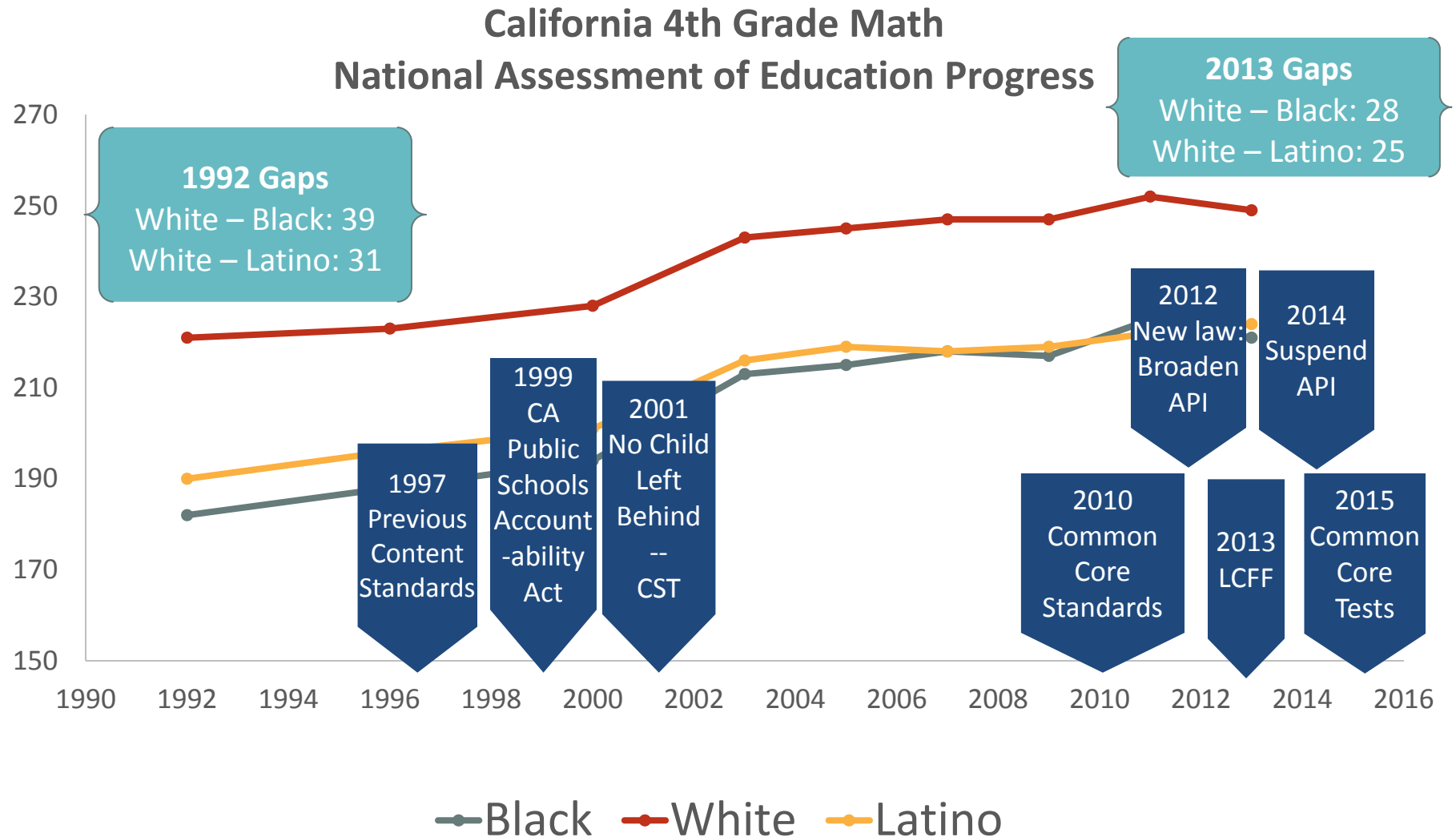# The Achievement Gap

California 4th Grade Math
National Assessment of Education Progress

1992 Gaps
White – Black: 39
White – Latino: 31

2013 Gaps
White – Black: 28
White – Latino: 25

Chart y-axis values: 270, 250, 230, 210, 190, 170, 150

Chart x-axis values: 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016

Annotations:
- 1997 Previous Content Standards
- 1999 CA Public Schools Account-ability Act
- 2001 No Child Left Behind -- CST
- 2010 Common Core Standards
- 2012 New law: Broaden API
- 2013 LCFF
- 2014 Suspend API
- 2015 Common Core Tests

Legend: Black, White, Latino

Accountability: Where we are going

By Nov. 2015: the State Board of Education (SBE) will create a blueprint for the new accountability system. The SBE is asking for stakeholder input as it creates this blueprint.

2015

2016

Sept. SBE Meeting: SBE to approve final Evaluation Rubrics

The *earliest* a new accountability system could be online is fall 2016, and could be later.
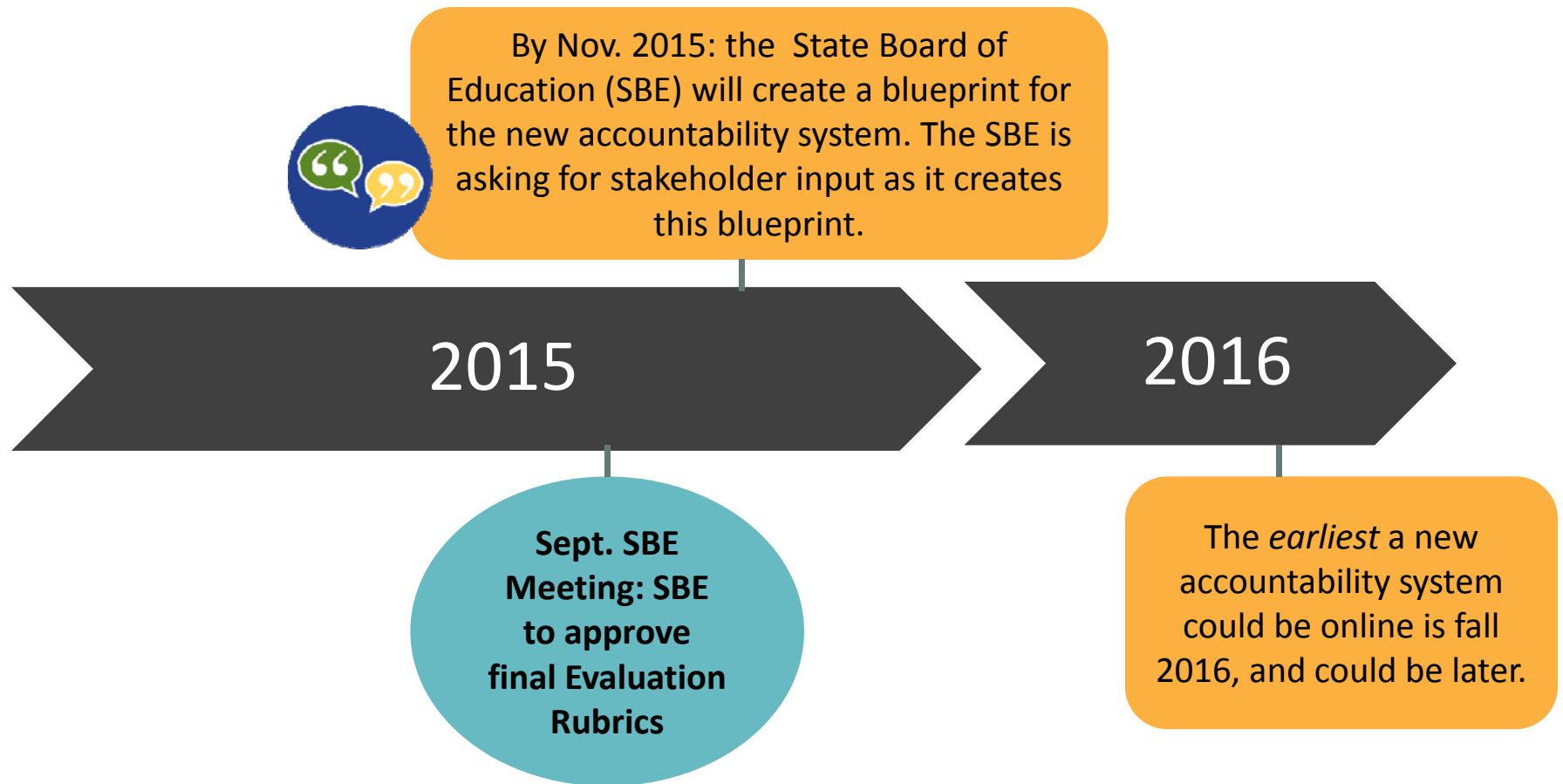
What is the State Board of Education discussing?

Discarding the API

- Moving from a single index to a multiple measure system

- This would involve a legislative change

Creating Evaluation Rubrics

- Data dashboards displaying data aligned with the 8 state priorities

- A process that encourages districts to reflect on and analyze outcomes and practices

Still up in the air...

How will the state prioritize measures?

How will our accountability system address subgroup performance & progress toward closing achievement gaps?

What will state interventions look like?

How will the state establish targets for performance & improvement?

How will we know, at-a-glance, how a district or school is doing?

Our perspective

Starting with a clean slate is good…

- Revamping our accountability system allows us to improve it, building upon what we know works.

- Engaging stakeholders in the process of designing new system.
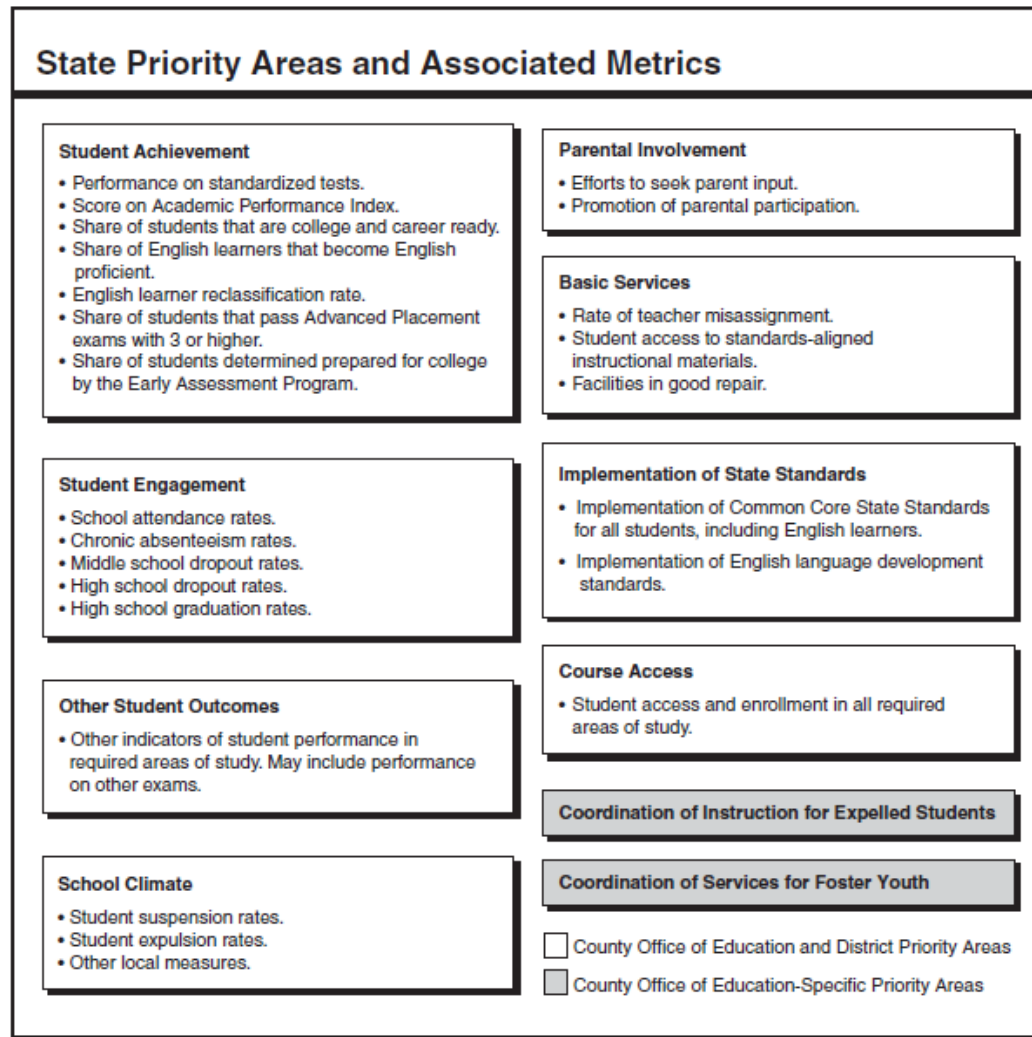
But we still need…

- Clear set of scores, ratings, or measures that "sum up" how a school or district is performing against state targets.

- Inclusion of metrics that shed light on achievement gaps and progress toward closing those gaps.

A proposed framework

Tool	Answers	Key Components
School & District Quality Ratings ("New API")	• Overall, **how** is this school or district doing against state targets? • **How** does it compare to other schools or districts?	• Summary designations, ratings, or indices • Small number of outcome measures • State targets • Clear triggers
Data Dashboards	• **What** are the results for this school or district across multiple priorities & measures, based on both state and local targets?	• Larger number of input and outcome measures • State and local targets
Local Control and Accountability Plans	• **What** are this district's local goals, programs/services, and expenditures?	• Stakeholder engagement • Goals, actions, and expenditures • Justification for use of targeted funds

LCFF: 8 state priority areas & associated metrics

State Priority Areas and Associated Metrics

Student Achievement
- Performance on standardized tests.
- Score on Academic Performance Index.
- Share of students that are college and career ready.
- Share of English learners that become English proficient.
- English learner reclassification rate.
- Share of students that pass Advanced Placement exams with 3 or higher.
- Share of students determined prepared for college by the Early Assessment Program.

Student Engagement
- School attendance rates.
- Chronic absenteeism rates.
- Middle school dropout rates.
- High school dropout rates.
- High school graduation rates.

Other Student Outcomes
- Other indicators of student performance in required areas of study. May include performance on other exams.

School Climate
- Student suspension rates.
- Student expulsion rates.
- Other local measures.

Parental Involvement
- Efforts to seek parent input.
- Promotion of parental participation.

Basic Services
- Rate of teacher misassignment.
- Student access to standards-aligned instructional materials.
- Facilities in good repair.

Implementation of State Standards
- Implementation of Common Core State Standards for all students, including English learners.
- Implementation of English language development standards.

Course Access
- Student access and enrollment in all required areas of study.

Coordination of Instruction for Expelled Students

Coordination of Services for Foster Youth

☐ County Office of Education and District Priority Areas
▨ County Office of Education-Specific Priority Areas

Source: Legislative Analyst's Office

Multiple measures

Inputs

School Climate · Implementation of Standards · Access · Facilities · Parent Engagement

Outcomes

English Language Acquisition · Grad Rates · Test Scores · College & Career Readiness
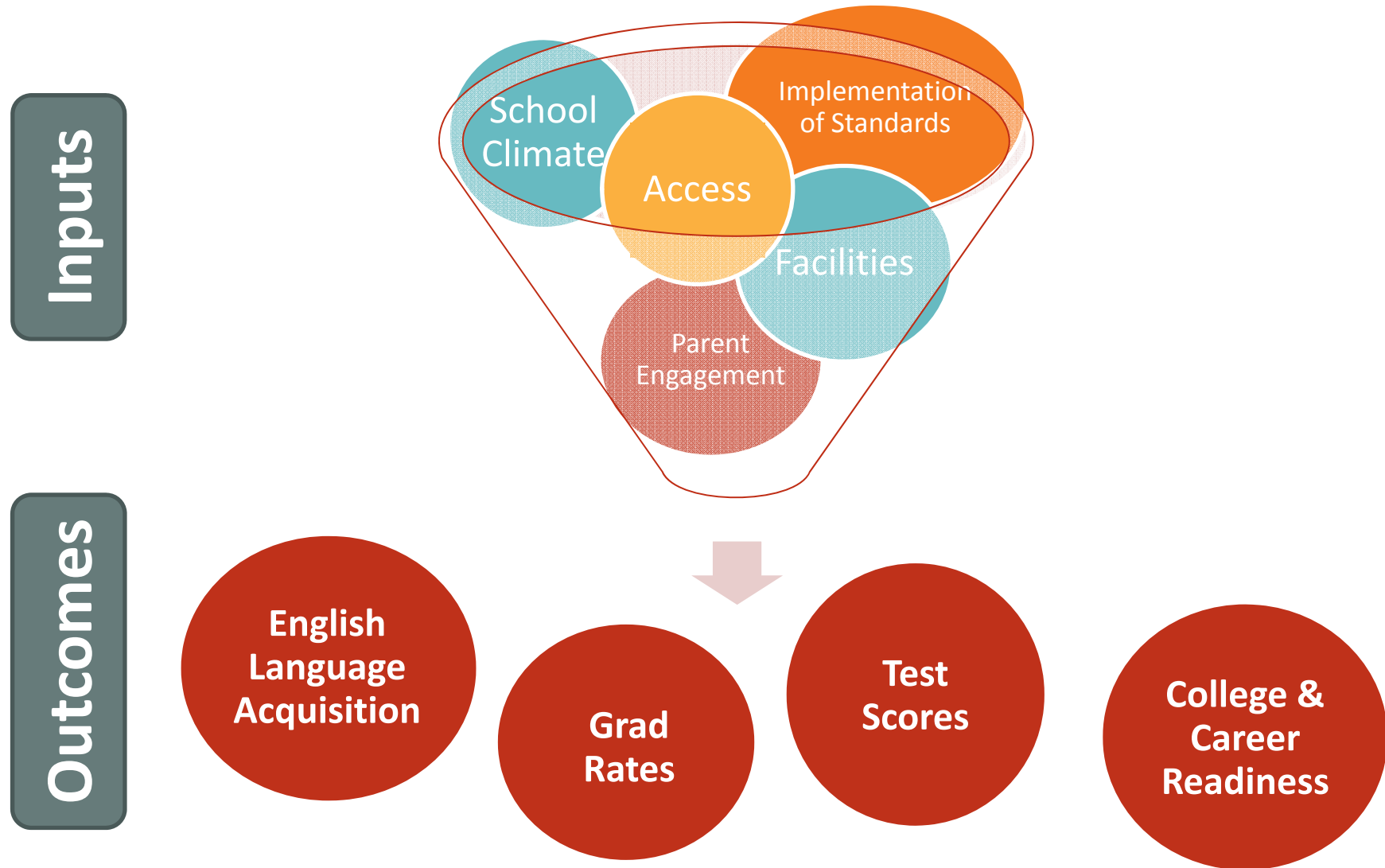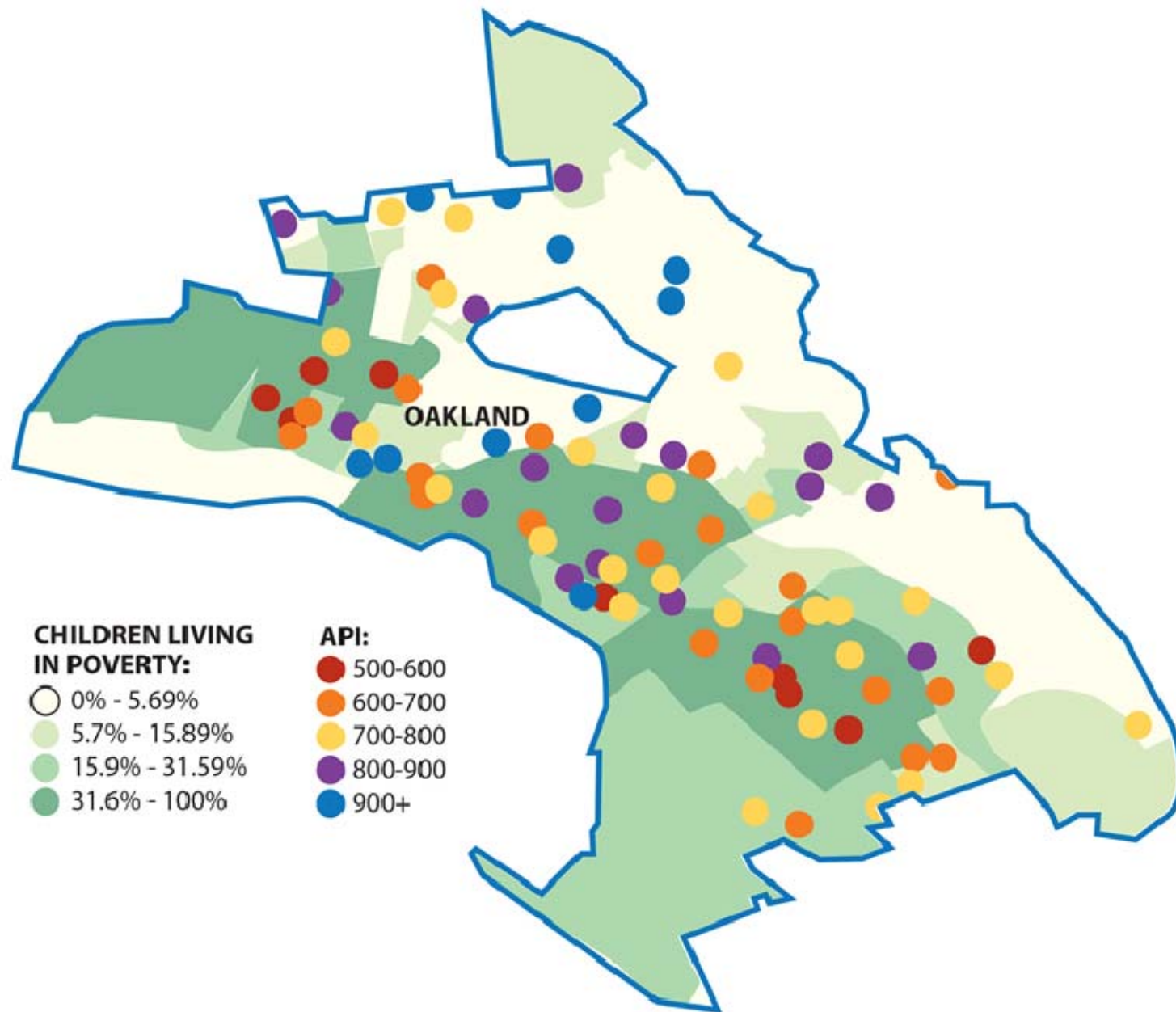
What's at Stake?
Parent & Community Knowledge

Parents and community members should have access to an easy, at-a-glance view into school and district performance that differentiates between schools.

A School & District Quality Rating is critical when they are selecting schools or determining whether their schools meet state targets.

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY:
- ○ 0% - 5.69%
- 5.7% - 15.89%
- 15.9% - 31.59%
- 31.6% - 100%

API:
- 500-600
- 600-700
- 700-800
- 800-900
- 900+

OAKLAND

What's at Stake?
The Achievement Gap

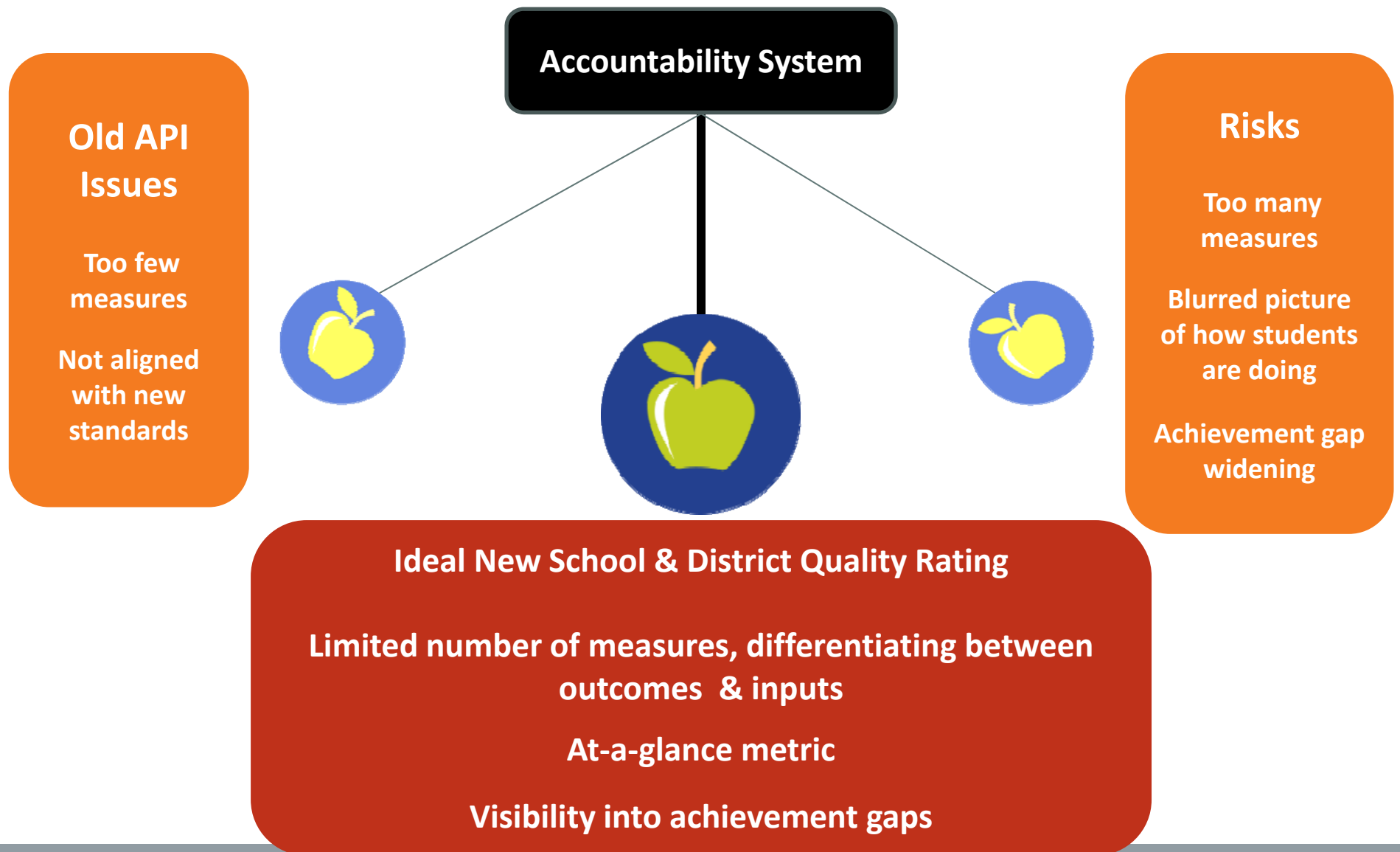Are students graduating at high rates in this school?

Are black, brown, and poor students achieving at the level of their white, wealthier peers?

Are school interventions to close the achievement gap working?

What questions does a School & District Quality Rating answer?

The Risk

Accountability System

Old API Issues

Too few measures

Not aligned with new standards

Risks

Too many measures

Blurred picture of how students are doing

Achievement gap widening

Ideal New School & District Quality Rating

Limited number of measures, differentiating between outcomes & inputs

At-a-glance metric

Visibility into achievement gaps

Next Steps

State Board of Ed Meeting

- May 6-7
- Evaluation rubric update
- Possible accountability blueprint update

Get updates

- Want to stay in the loop? Click yes on our poll to receive updates, resources & action alerts

Questions?

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