

Getting Down to Facts III Statewide Partner Briefing

February 4th, 2026

Stanford | SCALE Initiative
Accelerator for Learning

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Welcome & Purpose of the Briefing

Objectives:

- share key updates about GDTF III
- strengthen alignment with ecosystem of education partners
- Invitation to collaborate to ensure access to the research across California via our google form a the end of the webinar



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Project Overview & Research Agenda

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GDTF III's Objective



Provide the best possible evidence on where CA's education system is, where it can go, and how to get there so that CA can be a model of excellence for all of our students

The History of Getting Down to Facts

2007: Getting Down to Facts I

Focused on education finance and governance, leading to the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and reduced regulations in the Education Code.

2018: Getting Down to Facts II

Informed substantial investments in early childhood education and more equitable school financing.

2026: Getting Down to Facts III

An updated set of research reports and policy briefs will focus on the most critical questions facing our state's education system.



Meeting the Moment: The Need for Evidence Now



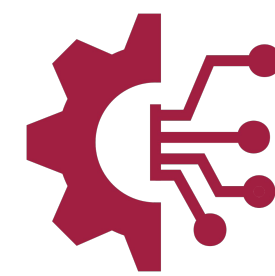
SHIFTING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

To influence and inform policy and practice as we face a new federal administration and prepare for a gubernatorial transition in 2026



ONGOING POST-PANDEMIC EFFECTS

To identify best practices and approaches for addressing students' academic and social-emotional needs



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

To understand how to best leverage emerging technologies to transform students' educational experiences

4 Driving Questions

1. **How are California's students and schools doing?** Where are areas of success and where are areas of struggle? Where are resources sufficient and where are they insufficient?
2. How can California deliver **high-quality instruction** for all students and respond with excellence to changing needs and opportunities?
3. How can California provide the best possible educational experiences for **multilingual learners**?
4. How can California leverage **new technology** to transform students' educational experiences so that schools are meaningfully both more effective and more engaging?

Research Products: Released Spring 2026



Technical Reports (55) May, 2026

- No one study, no matter how rigorous, provides all needed information

Research Briefs (21) May, 2026

- Combines groups of studies into a set of topic-specific research briefs
- Examples: The Potential of Technology, Student Outcomes, High School and Beyond

Summary Report (1) May, 2026

- Summarizes salient findings from across the entire project

Audience-specific materials, Summer 2026

- Multimedia, podcasts, accessible...useful to your organizations

GDTF III Research Briefs*

1. Goals for schools
2. Student outcomes - where students are
3. Finance - trends, levels and patterns by groups
4. Workforce - patterns, trends and forces at place
5. Demographic and environmental change
6. Instructional improvement - incentives and capacities for districts and schools
7. Curriculum
8. Math
9. ELA
10. Family and community engagement
11. High school and beyond
12. Early childhood
13. Multilingual learners
14. Special Education
15. Differentiation & teaching at the right level
16. Balancing local control with regulation and accountability
17. Government alignment - transparency, authority and incentives
18. Charter schools
19. The potential of technology
20. Data
21. Civics and Student engagement

*Final Technical Reports and Briefs titles subject to change.

Research Timeline

- **Winter/Spring 2025** - Listening tour, Advisory group formation, Research agenda development, Researcher recruitment
 - April 2025 - *First researcher convening* - settle on studies
- **Spring/Summer/Fall 2025** - Research in Progress
 - October 2025 - *Second researcher convening* - feedback on studies in progress
- **Winter 2026** - Studies complete
 - Beginning of March 2026 - *Draft reports due*, Review and feedback
 - End of March 2026 - *Final reports due*
 - March 2026 - *Third researcher convening* - Collect findings
- **Spring 2026** - Preparation of materials for stakeholders, stakeholder engagement
 - May 2026 - *GDTF III research products released*

Partner Insights: Research to Practice

**Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Executive Director
Policy Analysis for California Education**



How Can GDTF III impact policy and practice in 2026?

Governor's Budget Proposal investments and policy opportunities:

- State Education Governance—move management of California Dept. of Education to the State Board of Education
- Community Schools—\$1 billion ongoing Proposition 98 GF
- Master Plan for Career Education, increase access to college and career pathways for high school students, dual enrollment/dual credit—\$100 million one-time Prop. 98
- Expanded Learning—TK-6 grade, \$1,800 per student, total ongoing funding \$4.7 billion Prop. 98 GF
- Educator Workforce—\$250 million one-time Prop. 98 GF educator residency programs (2029-30)

How Can GDTF III impact policy and practice in 2026?

Governor's Budget Proposal investments and policy opportunities:

- Immigration Enforcement
- Local Control Funding Formula
- Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant—\$2.8 billion one-time Prop. 98 GF. Support consequences of immigration actions, including attendance, enrollment declines.
- Reading Difficulties Risk Screening—\$40 million one-time Prop. 98 GF
- Charter School Accountability
- Special Education-improved services for students with disabilities—2.2 billion ongoing Prop. 98.

California Ecosystem: Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges

- California's economy and budget pressures amid federal funding uncertainty (health vs. education)
- Governor & Legislature priorities
- Conflicting and constrained local LEA priorities

Opportunities

- Information hearings and testimony
- Legislative visits
- Briefings & webinar presentations
- Conference speakers
- State policy panels

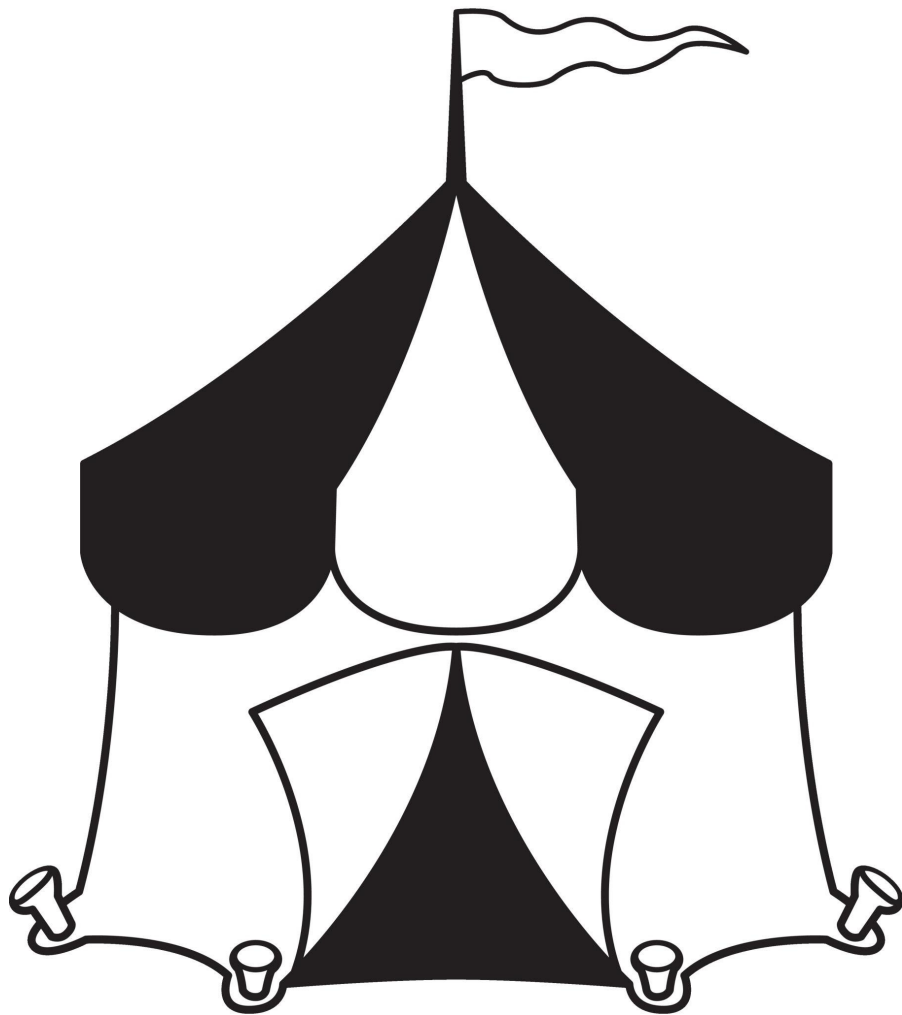
Opportunities for Collaboration

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Community Engagement Timeline



Regional Convenings



Objectives:

1. Familiarize ecosystem with GDTF findings
2. Identify most salient findings
3. Develop champions for change

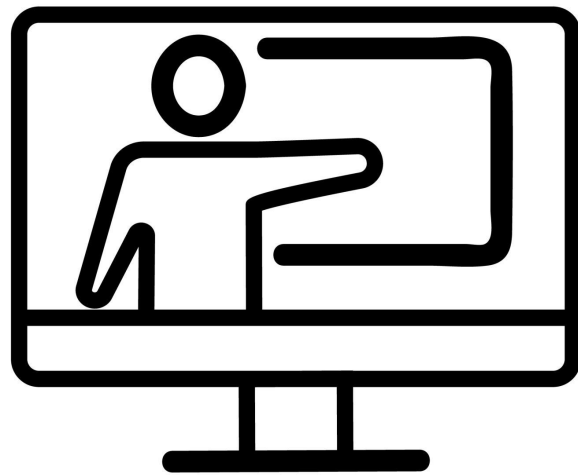
Audience:

1. Policy makers (local and state)
2. Practitioners
3. Community members, particularly local leaders

Format:

1. In-person
2. Panel or other sharing of findings
3. Discussion and Participant Charge: What can I do to move this research into policy & practice?

Topical Webinars



Objectives:

1. Focus on specific policy areas of interest
2. Identify most salient findings
3. Develop champions for change

Audience:

1. Policymakers (local and state)
2. Practitioners

Format:

1. Virtual
2. Panel or other sharing of findings
3. Discussion and Participant Charge: How does this research inform my policy and practice?

Small-Group Briefings



Objectives:

1. High-touch sessions designed for leadership audiences
2. Takeaways tailored to decision-making context
3. Support champions for change

Audience:

1. Invitation-only leadership, policy or practitioner groups

Format:

1. In-person
2. Sharing of findings most relevant to the audience
3. Discussion and Q&A

Closing & Next Steps

Objectives:

- Getting Down to Facts III is entering a high-impact engagement phase in Spring/Summer 2026
- The research is designed to directly inform policy and practice in a critical legislative moment.
- Partners are invited to actively co-lead the next phase of the work. Please complete the survey to be first to have access to the results and findings!

Statewide Partner Briefing Follow-Up Survey

<https://tinyurl.com/GDTFllpartners>



Thank you!

Follow-Up Materials (to be shared post-briefing):

- GDTFIII 2025 Agenda and Timeline
- Draft list of upcoming papers
- Draft list of upcoming briefs
- Partner engagement form / feedback survey to survey legislative priorities and requested briefings from researcher team
- Save-the-date for release and SCALE/PACE conference

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