

Great Ideas for Great Public Schools

CALIFORNIA

Teacher-led reforms raise student achievement

Achievement is rising among California's at-risk students, thanks to teacher-led reforms made possible by the **Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) of 2006**—a product of legal action and legislation sponsored by the California Teachers Association and former teacher Tom Torlakson, now California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program impacts some 500 schools and 500,000 students, the majority of whom are Latino/Hispanic; 42 percent are English-language learners, and 85 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

Proven reforms get results

- QEIA is providing nearly \$3 billion over seven years for proven approaches to raising student achievement, including smaller classes, qualified teachers in core subjects, high school counselors, quality training for teachers and principals, time for collaboration, and greater parental involvement.
- In 2009, the second year of full implementation, QEIA schools experienced nearly 50 percent more growth on the California Academic Performance Index (API) than comparable schools.
- Since 2008, when program implementation began, API scores have risen at nearly 90 percent of the QEIA schools.
- More than half of the QEIA schools have experienced API growth of 50 points or more.

Educators know what works

- "There is a lot of talk and speculation about education reform these days," said former CTA President David A. Sanchez. "With QEIA, we have a working model for teacher-led reform with proven results."
- "Test scores are improving but it goes far beyond that," said Amy Lee Duprey, who teaches at QEIA participant Washington Elementary School in Compton. "We're seeing kids make real progress in all areas. The time for collaboration and additional resources QEIA provides are really paying off."
- "These results show that student achievement is directly tied to resources, and having those resources targeted to the right things," said Eric Heins, the CTA board member who chairs the organization's QEIA workgroup.

For more information: California Teachers Association, www.cta.org/Issues-and-Action/QEIA/QEIA

Video: California Teachers Association vice president Eric Heins on *Class Action*, <http://bit.ly/ezG4WV>



Great Public Schools for Every Student