



The Broad Symposium

September 19, 2005

Breakout Sessions (2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Data at Your Fingertips: www.SchoolMatters.com (Sackler Room)

Where can you find out how your district stacks up in student achievement against others in your state? How about reports and analyses on student achievement, demographics and education spending? www.SchoolMatters.com is a one-stop, powerhouse website at the vanguard of the national movement to make public education data and data analysis more transparent and user-friendly. This session features a live web demonstration by Standard & Poor's to show how this site can be an invaluable resource for district administrators, board members and policy leaders. The session also includes a review of S&P's unique "Return on Resources" analyses that highlights the relative effectiveness of each district's and state's instructional spending when compared against its student performance.

A Toolkit for Improvement: Using the Just for the Kids Best Practice Framework in Your District (Freer Room)

How can you apply instructional best practices in your district? This hands-on, practical session uses Just for the Kids tools to benchmark your instructional practices and student performance results with the most successful schools and districts. Consultants from the National Center for Educational Accountability will walk you through how to apply their Best Practices Framework to your school improvement planning and assessment process at the classroom, school and district levels.

Take a Test Drive: Using Data and Benchmark Assessments to Impact Instruction (Gallery Room)

How can your district develop and use data, regular student testing and strong accountability systems to improve teaching and learning for all students? Broad Prize finalist districts will share how they use frequent assessments to drive performance system-wide. Find out to use data monitoring systems to engage teachers, principals and district leaders in improving instruction year-round.

The Winner's Circle: Lessons from Prior Broad Prize Winners (Hillwood Room)

What can we learn from districts that have shown dramatic improvements in student achievement and progress in closing achievement gaps? In this session, superintendents from the winning districts of Houston, Long Beach and Garden Grove will share their strategies for improving student achievement, the obstacles that they faced along the way, and the best practices that allowed them to "leapfrog" other districts.

Breakout Sessions (4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

Behind the Scenes: Selecting the Broad Prize Winner (Freer Room)

How can your district win the largest award in public education today? This session provides an overview of the annual process of selecting the finalists and winner of The Broad Prize. Staff from The Broad Foundation and the National Center for Educational Accountability will review the eligibility criteria for the Prize, the data collected and analyzed, and the methodology used by the Review Board and Selection Jury in making their decisions.

Do What Works: Effective Instructional Programs, Practices and Interventions (Hillwood Room)

How can a district select the most effective instructional programs and interventions to meet the diverse needs of students? Representatives from Broad Prize finalist districts will share how they implement highly effective programs in reading and math at all grade levels. This session will also cover best practices for helping struggling students.

Goals + Team = Success: Aligning Academic Objectives with Professional Talent (Sackler Room)

How can you ensure that every child has equal access to high quality instruction and is ready for the next grade? How can you recruit and retain the right team? Find out how Broad Prize finalist districts are successfully using data to plan academic goals and align curriculum. They will also share how to cultivate a highly skilled, motivated workforce in the quest to improve instruction and – ultimately – student achievement.