



What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21st Century?

What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take:
Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today

Open Space Report: Chicago

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following:

1. Names of group members

Carolyn Vincent (convener); Silvia Saucedo

2. Issue/Topic/Activity

Possibility of an online community to follow up on the meeting

3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps

Interest in online communities of practice came up not only in this session, but also in the session on common core standards and EL that Silvia and I both participated in. Desired characteristics of an online community of practice that emerged in the discussion are as follows:

- **Allow for multiple local working groups that would be interconnected, rather than one broad working group**
- **Have a particular content focus—could be groups working on different topics, but keep a tight focus on an issue where work is underway and there is passion and urgency**
- **Incentives for participation should be provided to community of practice members. Financial incentives in the form of stipends? Link the research grants that were announced today to working groups in the community?**
- **Have some expectations and accountability—community of practice members should know up front what they are committing to**
- **Develop community from the value of grassroots participation and the power of local action. The good work of even one school can make a difference if it is given visibility through a community of practice**

- **Use online communities to reinforce respects for the professionalism of educators at all levels, including teachers**
- **Experts might play a useful role in online communities in the form of guidance and feedback on progress of working groups. Experts should not be strictly “ivory tower” types, be personable, have credibility as a practitioner or with practitioners.**
- **People are attracted to the idea of online community, but will be too busy unless there is structure to keep them engaged**

4. Available Resources

To be defined

5. Follow-up requests

I introduced myself as a staff on the Doing What Works project to Stephanie and Mari and hope for continued conversation

6. Next steps/Action Items/Recommendations

To be defined

7. Please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!