

September 5, 2008

CERA Keynote Address

Resources, Policies, and Practices Needed to Improve Educational Outcomes for California's English Learners

Russell W. Rumberger
UC Linguistic Minority Research Institute

The population of linguistic minority students continues to grow in California's public schools, now reaching 45 percent of all kindergarten students, while achievement levels continue to lag far behind those of English-only students. To improve educational outcomes for English learners will not only require more appropriate classroom teaching, it will also require more programmatic supports, more resources and more effective policies. This presentation will discuss: the growth and achievement of California's English learner population; different educational goals for these students, ranging from English language proficiency to closing the achievement gap with English-only students; the types of practices inside and outside the classroom that can help achieve those goals; and it will examine the types of resources needed to support those practices. Finally, this presentation will discuss a set of policy recommendations for providing those resources, for improving the number and quality of EL teachers, and for improving the instructional infrastructure of the state.

BIO

RUSSELL W. RUMBERGER is Professor of Education in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California (UC) Santa Barbara and Director of the UC Linguistic Minority Research Institute (UC LMRI). He received a Ph.D. in Education and a M.A. in Economics from Stanford University and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University. He has published widely in several areas: education and work; the schooling of disadvantaged students, particularly school dropouts and linguistic minority students; school effectiveness; and education policy. He is currently directing the California Dropout Research Project, which is producing research and a state policy agenda to improve California's high school graduation rate (<http://lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/>).