

Memorandum

To: Paul Downs
From: David Laitin and Michael Hotard
Date: May 2, 2019
Subject: AB2098 Workgroup Integration Measures

Representing Stanford's Immigration Policy Lab, we want to thank you for including us in the discussions on the implementation of AB2098. During the last AB2098 workgroup meeting which we were unable to attend, we listened to the discussion concerning the overall definition of immigrant integration and a recommendation map for how the group can achieve its goal. We also studied the group's list of possible indicators based on ten dimensions of integration.

We very much appreciate that your workgroup fully grasps that integration is a complex, multi-dimensional concept, one that is important for all immigrants, even those who do not find themselves in an ESL classroom. Furthermore, recognizing that California ought to become a leader in the evaluation of immigrant integration, we appreciate your workgroup's willingness to go beyond existing metrics and reporting requirements.

However, as your group works toward defining the "common measures.... for meeting the needs of immigrant and refugee adults seeking integration," we would like to put forward two more goals for consideration.

1) The measures should allow for comparability with integration programs elsewhere among immigrant receiving communities, whether in California, or elsewhere in the United States, and even abroad. We can never really measure success of our programs in California without relying on measures that are internationally validated.

2) All innovative programs to foster integration should be rolled out in a way that would permit valid measurement of that program's success. This goal can be achieved through many procedures, for example the sequencing of the roll-out, but should become a standard criterion for all new programs in the immigrant integration space.

We believe that the workgroup is moving in the direction of developing measures that acknowledge the complex nature of integration, that are appropriate for immigrants broadly, and that would position California as a leader in this area. Moreover, we are pleased that the group recognizes that immigrant integration in California goes beyond the walls of adult education. It affects multiple generations of immigrants in various settings, including those that are not involved in adult education programs. We are also confident that your workgroup is cognizant of these concerns.

As an addition to what you have already put on the table, we hope our additional two criteria will be considered as you develop your final report.

Thank you again for including us at Stanford's Immigration Policy Lab in your deliberations.