

From Effective to *Supportive*

—— Accountability Reconsidered



Annual Conference
American Evaluation Association
Oct 18, 2013

Ruofei Tian
College of Education
Shenyang Normal University
rftian@163.com

How to Balance?

A Troubling Issue Facing
Educational Reforms Worldwide



***What is* this accountability that is often in conflict with learning?**

On effectiveness

Can education be adequately judged by narrow, econometric indicators of quality?

Test-based

Can learning be meaningfully measured by tests alone?

***What is* this accountability that is often in conflict with learning?**

For schools

Can schools alone be responsible for educating the next generation?

As an incentive

Can proper, ethical means of demonstrating accountability be guaranteed?

Is accountability that **EVIL**?

—— Accountability Reconsidered

Government



District



School



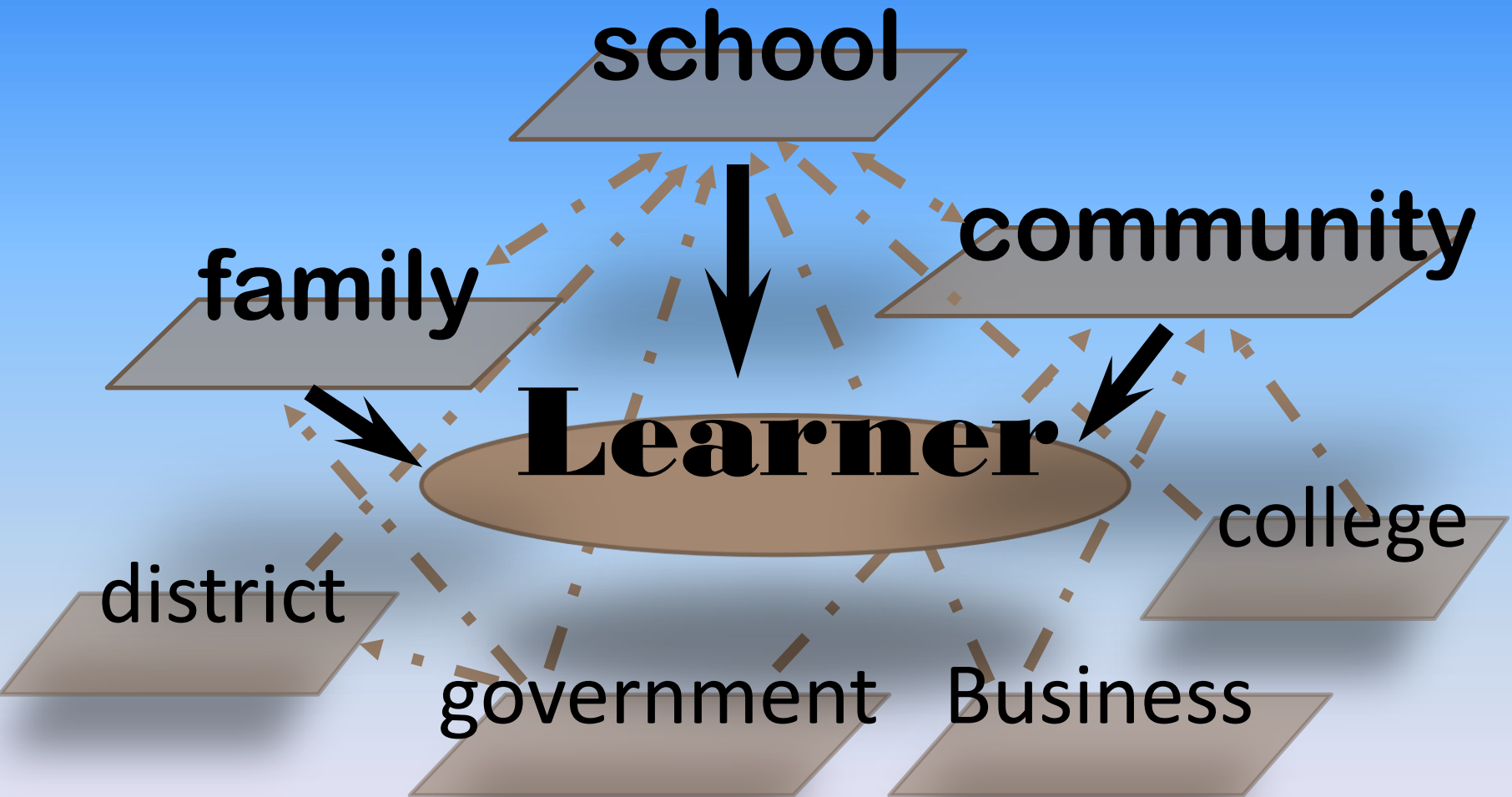
Teacher



Learner

The problem of accountability focusing on effectiveness is that it diminishes the learner

Accountability as *supportiveness*



From How effective to How supportive

We can

- ✦ Focus on learning
- ✦ Maximize teacher's potential
- ✦ Allocate educational resources to the most needy
- ✦ Achieve desired testing goals