

## SESSION A

### The Three Problems with School Funding

#### Presenters

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#### Context

Our current state education funding systems are broken. Rather than facilitating the delivery of education, these overly political and antiquated formulas now serve as a barrier to innovation in our schools.

#### Key Points

##### **Problem #1: Funding is largely arbitrary**

Solved with weighted student formula in multiple states- brings accountability to legislature o No real grasp of how much it costs to actually educate a child. Almost every state in the country has conducted 2-3 “costing out studies”

##### **Problem #2: Funding formulas are completely outdated**

Only 26 states fund simply based on student need. The rest have hybrid between student need/funding allocation or just fund solely based on resources. State funding systems build in exceptional rigidity, stifle innovation, and create perverse incentives o Solved with weighted student formula (“the ultimate fix”)

##### **Problem #3: State funding is often segregating**

The lower the income of the school district, the more requirements affixed to their funding

Types of segregation:

- Inefficient Segregation
- Illogical Segregation e.g. gerrymandering of school districts
- Exclusionary Segregation

There’s a very big difference between local funding and local governance

- They’re not dependent on one another
- Weighted student formula mitigates aforementioned gerrymandering

#### Strategies/Lessons Learned

- Student weighted formulas “the ultimate fix,” generally, though some situations more difficult for implementation than others (and not always perfect). - For now, more of a stepping stone to larger structural reform.