

SESSION B

Saving a Billion Dollars is Cool: The Case for the Classroom P & L

Presenters

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Context

Accessing resources is time-consuming and expensive for educators. Jamie Rosenberg is the CEO of Class Wallet and founder of AdoptAClassroom.org, which raised funds for classrooms.

Key Points

The teacher is the single point of distribution for resources to reach the student. Thus, teachers need access to resources. However, this is time consuming, has many middlemen, and has many forms and paperwork. on average, it will cost \$217 to process a purchase order. Many companies not equipped to manage purchase orders: such as Amazon. This can add up to \$1.5 billion annual costs to try to get resources to teachers.

Problem: teachers have the least amount of autonomy in the school system which undermines their moral and work satisfaction. Result: teachers don't try to request things because process is too difficult. In the end, they spend annually about \$1.7 billion out of their own funding, or alternate means such as crowdfunding.

Strategies/Lessons Learned

We need to empower teachers with increased autonomy so they can be part of the change, not targets of the change. It is important to engage teachers in the process of identifying resources that classrooms need.

The solution could be: Give teachers a classroom budget, put them in charge of driver's seat of their classroom. This model provides for identifying students needs, immediately and efficiently meeting these needs with resources. This is more effective because it eliminates processes and paperwork that is time consuming and inefficient. This will improve teacher moral with autonomy. Savings can be re-allocated towards the classroom. Also, reimbursement, through this program, is guaranteed to occur within 24 hours of purchase.