

## SESSION D

### More than Budgeting: The CA Smarter School Spending Project

#### Presenters

Joyce Highhouse and Deborah Sims | Pivot Learning

#### Context

California's boom and bust budget cycle, declining enrollment, and changes in education policy have challenged school districts to sustain their investments in prof development, improving student learning, and closing the achievement gap. To address the complex nature of strategic budgeting in California, and with the support of the Gates Foundation, Pivot learning has joined with five districts to implement a new model of strategic planning and budgeting, ensuring that district are able to fund their high leverage initiatives that sig impact student achievement.

#### Key Points

LCAP - Local Control Accountability Plan

- All districts must use this plan to describe their plan of action re: meeting student outcomes
- ID plans, metrics, etc
- Smarter School Planning Project - brings together strategic academic planning and the budget process
- Collapses the silos (business and academic spheres) and gets them in sync
- Learning and developing together
- At the core of this process is the concept of resource tradeoffs

Five Step Smarter School Spending Process:

1. Plan and prepare
2. Set instructional priorities
3. Pay for priorities
4. Improvement plan
5. Sustainability

Goals:

1. ID operational and other savings efficiency
  2. More sharply defining strategic priorities
  3. ID ongoing initiatives that should be discontinued
  4. Improving ability to engage stakeholders
  5. Enhancing capabilities to annually refresh strategy and further reconciliation opportunities
- Schools w/ better capability to engage communities generally see better results
  - Smarter School Spending = how we realign and identify appropriate resources
  - A year round, continuous improvement process
  - Ongoing structure for what is in place, how are you doing, and how do we shape/scale that up
  - Ongoing Project Manager and Finance Coach
  - Critical that Superintendent makes project their priority

## SESSION D

### More than Budgeting: The CA Smarter School Spending Project

- All tools and strategies online, however districts could benefit from the services of a technical assistance provider
- What can you stop doing, so you can use those resources to better serve the students' needs
- Where is the gap between best practice research and what's actually in place
- What metrics should be prospectively/proactively developed so as to institute performance measures

#### Other Key Takeaways

- Schools w/ better capability to engage communities generally see better results
- Districts today are being asked to do more and are being stretched thin