How the Education Sector Recovers from Covid Recession?
Risks and Opportunities

- What can be learned from the post-2009 era, recovering from financial crisis and recession?
- Sharpening state budget priorities for children and families.
- Why post-recession opportunities will be lost. Institutional stickiness and fragmented interests.
What can be learned from the post-2009 era?

- K-12 spending declined by one-fifth in the wake of financial crash.
- In contrast, the 2020-21 budget holds constant program support (counting deferred payments). Revenue trends.
- Coming out of recession Gov. Brown restructured school finance... intending to address gaps in achievement with new dollars ($23 billion yearly gain).
- Brown also “blew up” a few boxes: over 30 categorical aid programs, going farther than his predecessor.
- State coffers have benefited steadily from rising property tax revenues (filling a growing share of Prop 98 guarantee).
- Pension and health insurance plans eating away at district spending for the current instructional program.
In this evolving context, how to sharpen budget priorities for children and families?

- **Start with key tenets**: address worsening inequities, simplify access to programs, incent innovation.

- **Attack disparities**: Finance reform has failed to budge wide racial disparities in student learning. Why?

- **Simplify access**: Panoply of confusing family leave and child-care programs for youngsters and families [and local providers].

- **Incent innovation**: What’s being learned from online instruction that’s motivating for kids and teachers?
Institutional stickiness and fragmented interests

- How to backstop programs and local organizations under stress – and simplify or recast – is challenging. Special interests feel starved.

- Fiscal resources will remain tight: $10 billion hole in deferrals to K-12. Slight additional help from Washington or Prop 15.

- Will Gov. Newsom be distracted from earlier priorities: low-income families and young children? The chance to simplify family access.

- Can the state remedy regressivity inside school districts? The failure of Local Control Funding in narrowing achievement gaps.

- Might the state evaluate what did work with online instruction, and incent replication to better motivate students and teachers?