AYPF + NNERPP
RPP Learning Webinar Series, Part 1: How Can RPPs Pivot to be Most Helpful in Times of Crisis?

June 23, 2020
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Webinar Technical Support

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- To submit live questions, please use the “Questions” box on the control panel
- A recording of the webinar and other resources will be available at www.aypf.org
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District Transformation: COVID-19 in Context

● From one perspective, COVID-19 is a tremendous shock to the education system.
● From another perspective, COVID-19 is pressing for the rapid acceleration of district transformation that has been playing out for the last several decades.
● Cross-cutting issues:
  ○ Access to schooling
  ○ Excellence and equity in education
  ○ Organizing and managing instruction
The Work of Instructionally-Focused Education Systems

- Building Educational Infrastructure
- Supporting the Use of Educational Infrastructure in Practice
- Managing Environmental Relationships
- Managing Performance for Continuous Improvement and Accountability
- Developing and Distributing Instructional Leadership
Types of Partnerships

● Research Alliances
● Networked Improvement Communities (NICs)
● Design-based Partnerships
● Hybrids (Improvement-Focused Collaborative Research)
The Equity Challenge

Research-Practice Partnerships (RPPs) can support the development of

- Equitable partnerships between groups with historical power imbalances
- Equitable outcomes for marginalized groups
- Equitable systems (organizational, political, systemic)
Roles partnerships can serve

- **Participate**
  - Continue research projects
  - Participate in partner school activities- just in time supports!

- **Inform**
  - Be an information channel: Send check-in emails, sharing resources from university communities
  - Provide current information on key issues: Reviews of research

- **Develop**
  - Write guidelines and best practices for differentiated instruction and support services for students
  - Develop and implement rapid assessment of students’ social and emotional learning and academic needs
  - Support development efforts for school and district infrastructures that support rapid pivots to online learning
  - Reimagine and adapt instructional materials for online or modified in person learning
Roles partnerships can serve

- **Understand**
  - Collect and analyze data to understand more about students’ mental health, food security, changes in behavior, sources of information, and experiences with remote learning

- **Teach**
  - Co-design and co-lead professional development for teachers and school leaders

- **Support**
  - Lead grant proposal writing for additional resources to address new challenges
  - Engage in ad hoc problem solving to provide additional capacity, resources, and personnel amidst budget cuts
An Example of an RPP Pivot during COVID-19

Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC)
Brief Background

- 11 public school districts in and around the Houston area
- Districts serve over 715,000 students
- Minority-majority districts
- Economically disadvantaged populations
Prior to COVID-19

- 10+ projects in progress
- 20+ research products at various stages of production
- Lots of work in motion
COVID-19 outbreak

- Mid-March
- Public schools extend Spring Break
- Rice University sends students home
- Public schools shift to 100% distance learning

What do we need to do or at least start doing now to ensure we have the data later to help us answer questions about COVID-19’s impact?
Reached out through networks to see what’s happening

- Other groups at Rice University
- Community organizations worked with in the past

- Main questions
  - Who’s doing what?
  - Can we (HERC) get involved?
Harvey Home Connect

- Tied to Harris County Long-Term Recovery Committee
- Developed post-Hurricane Harvey to aid in recovery
- Goal is to connect resources/information to families and households in need

- Not researchers
Gulf Coast Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Impact Survey (gulfcoastcovidsurvey.org)

- Get data to assist nonprofit organizations and local governmental agencies in identifying needs and connecting resources
  - Houston Food Bank, Urban Harvest, Collaborative for Children

- Contrast with how researchers often describe the disaster

- Impact of COVID-19 on jobs and employment, education and schooling, health and medical care (not symptoms), and family and well-being
Gulf Coast Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Impact Survey – **Data Dashboard**

- Data starts coming in, need a tool to start sharing it back out

- Designed, developed, programmed, tested, and launched interactive dashboard available to public with filters to look at aggregate data

- Updated regularly to give latest insights into the impacts of COVID-19 on the Houston area
Gulf Coast Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Impact Survey – Data points

- Producing an ongoing series of data points highlighting information from survey to learn more about the impact of COVID-19 on the Houston area

- Currently released data points
  - Impacts on employment by industry and earnings
  - Evidence of digital divide and parental concern about students being ready for next year
  - Information sources used to learn about COVID-19
  - Financial (in)security
  - Ability of families to care for children at home due to school closures
At the same time...

- Continued moving forward with pre-existing work

- Continued holding regular meetings with district partners
  - Checking in: how is everyone doing?
  - Also, be flexible and know when to “step back”

- Continued to make HERC available to districts for their data/research needs
  - Worked with district partners in the design, development, programing, and administration of surveys to parents, teachers, and students
What enabled this “pivot” to happen?

- Partnership-based research, not project base
- Schools and districts very focused on curriculum and instruction
- Organizational interest and commitment to a “greater good”
Key Takeaways

- Availability of matched expertise to arising needs
- Brokerage role of the RPP
- General funding that is not project specific
- Lay foundational infrastructure during one pivot for a future pivot
Audience Q & A

- To submit questions, use the “Questions” box on the GTW control panel

Webinar Survey + Recording/Resources

- Please fill out our survey upon exiting the webinar
- A recording of this webinar + relevant materials will be emailed to all attendees, and posted on the AYPF website: www.aypf.org
THANK YOU!