What are we hearing? January 22

**Big picture:**
- Balancing ongoing "crisis mode" with opportunities for innovation - current focus on rapid return to remote
- External influences/barriers
- Policy, funding

**Challenges:**
- Student engagement
- Assessment
- Staffing
- Quality of instruction

**Possibilities:**
- Mastery based
- Self-directed learning

**Observation and coaching**
- Remote learning woes for teachers in practice (not necessarily a resource thing)

**Instructional - how do we build and account for things not taught (this that have been opted-out by different states)**

**Strike looming in CPS as union does raises major concerns about safety and they do not want simultaneous teaching.**

**Renton eyeing neighboring district's union battle as they try to figure out opening**

**Lots of early retirement from superintendents according to AASA**

**Iowa offering remote state testing**

**Biden released EO on opening schools in 100 days (ambitious)**

**Federal guidance FINALLY. Major implications for school reopening**

**Planning for reopening in spring is high priority for mastery, who haven’t been open since COVID. Forcing them to delay SL work for a bit**

**Indy has started phased reopening with younger students**

**Planning for 100% return in mid-March (my district)**

**We as a sector are already behind in planning for the next school year. Big worry, all planning will be pushed to summer, which is too late for anything to really be different in the fall.**

**We are looking at doing away with grade level structures next year to better meet needs of students post-pandemic. Lots of barriers to implementing it but exciting to see this being considered**

**Students with needs like dyslexia struggling without in person, synchronous reading**

**ELL students backtracking while remote learning**
What are we hearing? - October 2nd

Hard to make shifts within larger systems - who has the power to change or take a step back

Large learning curve to be agile to shift internal capacity and systems

Central Offices are not set up to function with agility and respond quickly

Cristo Rey in Lawrence, MA said they at least wanted to start beginning of year in person to form relationships

Leaders are overwhelmed with the amount of information they are processing from the state, federal, and students.

Teachers and leaders are burnt out - from principal in NYC - said multiple people want to quit daily

People liking the in person component much better than the remote part

Teacher at Uxbridge said while she is happy to be back in person she has nagging fear of catching the virus from a student

Instructional materials is a big lever not being

pedagogy planning is secondary - most of the time is spent on operationalization of offering multiple models.

What do you do when more kids want to return back to school? Lots of logistical implications (Cedar Rapids, Fairhaven)

Lots of success with webinars on edtech tools like Peardeck that were recorded so teachers can watch on demand (Milford)

Indy used a Microsoft Teams asynchronous PD with their teachers to prep for hybrid

Need for SEL + executive functioning skills support at Phoenix (over-age, undercredited H5s)

Teachers having hard time connecting to kids emotionally

Lack of national data and huge fragmentation of response makes "fully" sensemaking and storytelling hard to do

Assessment is a real pain point, Math teachers at Uxbridge said they shortchanged them and made them synchronous. Let go of worrying about kids cheating at home

How do we adjust instruction to account for gap from March to June - do we?

States are desperate for guidance on assessment FB groups of principals and K-12 admins also asking a ton about assessment and grading

How do we assess students to figure out where they are and what the gaps are.

Around the corner need: Teacher evaluation + also seeing requests for teacher reflection tools

Chicago Public Schools struggling with implementing remote option for when school buildings open (if that happens). Centralized remote option partnering with edtech plus individual schools can offer remote options

Hybrid learning is really difficult. Teachers are spending a lot of time planning "feels like my first year" (both Milford HS and Uxbridge HS)

Schools and parents realizing this whole school year going to be hybrid

Indy returning to hybrid next week

Hybrid tech needs for instructional guidance and conditions

Hybrid in Richmond

Cedar Rapids is hybrid to start, surveying families to see their preference for older students to prep for earning masters-in-hand-on-deck

Benton planning to return to Hybrid soon, surveying families now