



Reforming Education Finance: School Funding Portability

Matthew Carr, PhD

Research Associate

Walton Family Foundation



Introduction



- Three Focus Areas:
 - K-12 Systemic Education Reform
 - Freshwater and Marine Conservation
 - Home Region
- Began more than 20 years ago by Sam and Helen Walton
- www.WaltonFamilyFoundation.org



- Helping policymakers and educators create the conditions to advance choice and competition among schools, promote transparency and accountability, and lower costs through privatization
- Building a groundswell of support for school choice through award-winning print and video journalism
- www.reason.org www.reason.com
www.reason.tv

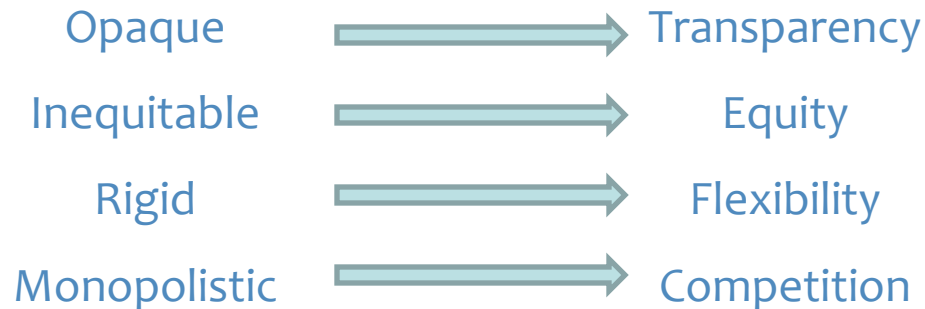


Overview

- What is School Funding Portability?
 - Money follows students to the schools they attend
 - Also known as WSF, SBB, “Backpacking,” etc.
 - State and/or local policy
- Why is it important?

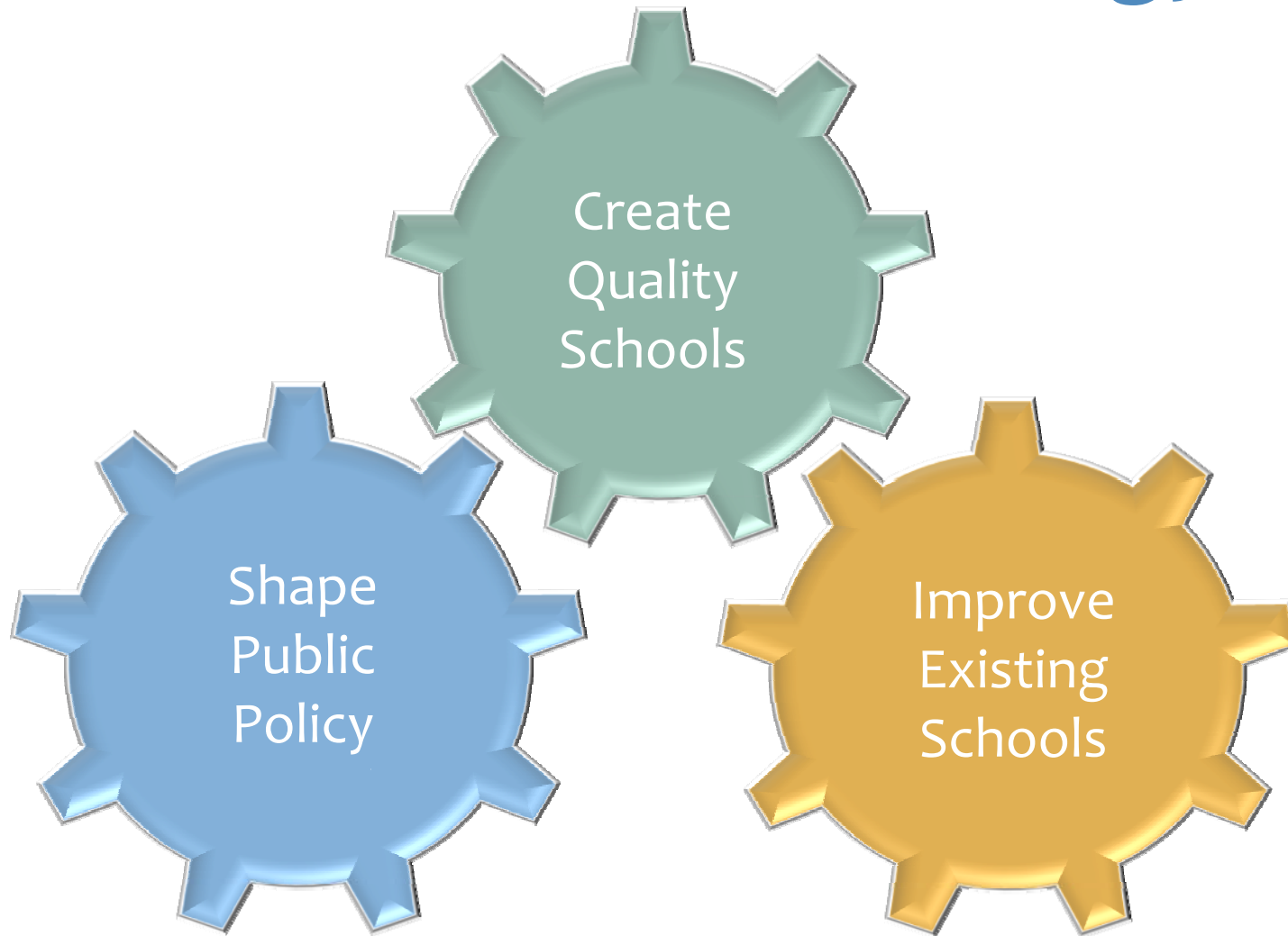
Problems with Current System

SFP Advantages





WFF Ed Reform Strategy





WFF Ed Reform Strategy

- Within Shaping Public Policy Initiative
 - Charter School Choice
 - Private School Choice
 - ***District Reform (SFP here)***
 - Cross-Sector Choice
- We see SFP as intertwined with Open Enrollment
 - Both being necessary to create systemic reform through choice within districts



Where SFP Stands

- Much of the work explaining the problems that are solved by SFP and why such policies are needed has already been done (SFP 1.0)
- Much work remains to describe and explain how such policies get designed, enacted, and implemented (SFP 2.0)
 - technical details still need to be worked out to solve myriad political, practical, and policy/legal challenges



WFF's Current Work

- Lisa Snell, Reason Foundation
 - Technical Assistance in Los Angeles and Louisiana
- Conversations with researchers and think tanks
- Internal discussion about investment opportunities in complementary policies



Moving Forward – State Level

Opportunities

- Scale of impact
- High profile
- Budget crisis leverage
- Promote charter school funding equity
- Small steps – red tape release, transparency promotion, pilots
- Incentivize

Challenges

- Contravened by districts
- Wide array of stakeholders
- Every state unique
- SFP blamed for budget cuts
- Local revenue problem
- Technical capacity
- CBA's
- Novelty



Moving Forward – Local Level

Opportunities

- Smaller scale (fewer obstacles)
- Local \$ not an issue
- Precedence and experience – proof points
- Higher interest level among policymakers
- Upward pressure for reform

Challenges

- Smaller scale (impact)
- Each district is a unique context
 - Craft multiple strategies
 - Transferability of lessons
- Significant uncertainty
- Wide array of stakeholders (though less than for state level)
- Capacity

Complementary Policies

Setting the groundwork

