

# THE EDUCATION *(re)*OPEN

POWERED BY

**USC**Rossier

School of Education  
*Center for Engagement-Driven  
Global Education (EDGE)*



**IDEO**



# HOW MIGHT WE STRENGTHEN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES, AS SITES REOPEN, BY HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS THAT RECONNECT PEOPLE AND ENHANCE COLLECTIVE WELLBEING, TEACHING, AND LEARNING?

The core challenge question represented the guiding light for the entire project. It reflects the insights and evidence the team gathered about the circumstances facing school communities from the news, through personal and professional networks, and directly from educators, administrators, parents, and students during Listening Circles.

## THEMES

The three themes for this challenge gave participants a framework to ensure the solutions would align with the needs we identified directly from school communities. The themes themselves emerged from a rich synthesis of the Listening Circles that we conducted with educators, administrators, parents, and students.



### THEME 1

## Communities Reconnecting

When school communities went virtual, many people felt isolated and lots of great ideas were left invisible and unshared.

As schools reopen in person, they will need to focus on reconnection—among colleagues and families, across districts, and with ourselves.



### THEME 2

## Collaborative Teaching, Learning, & Leadership

The pandemic has seen parents become teachers overnight, educators simultaneously instruct in person and online, and school leaders become triage experts.

Collaborating with diverse groups of people towards a shared vision will be essential to reopening equitably, innovatively, and sustainably.



### THEME 3

## Collective Health & Wellbeing

When asked, many students suggest that post-pandemic schooling needs to focus on relationships, take a less-is-more approach, and prioritize mental wellness.

Boosting health and resiliency at the communal, emotional, mental, and physical levels will be key to facing the unprecedented challenges before us.



“

“The biggest thing in our school community has been **‘what’s the point?’** I’ve seen a loss in drive, purpose, motivation. Our teachers didn’t sign up to be virtual and our parents didn’t sign up to homeschool. Some of our students aren’t sure if they want to go to college because of loans and debt. It’s clear that there’s going to be academic loss, but there are so many other social, emotional, psychological losses that many of us have faced.”

—JONATHAN T.  
K-12 Teacher/Educator  
K-12 School Administrator  
Parent of a K-12 Student



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## SOLUTIONS

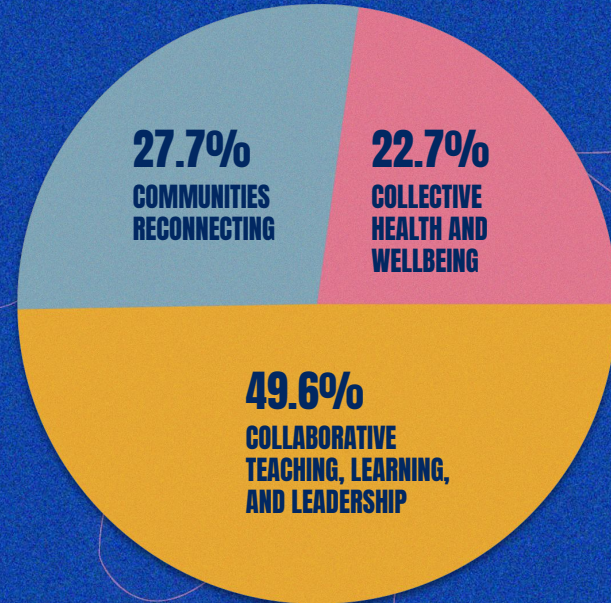
**256**  
SUBMITTED

**539**  
COMMENTS ADDED  
BY PARTICIPANTS  
AND COACHES

**214**  
MOVED TO  
EVALUATION

**75%**  
OF SOLUTIONS SUBMITTED  
FROM INNOVATORS  
OUTSIDE OF LOS ANGELES

## THEMES





# PROGRAM SUMMARY: SOLUTIONS

Participants submitted solutions for this challenge within a framework of three themes to ensure they would align with the needs of school communities: Communities Reconnecting, Collaborative Teaching, Learning & Leadership, and Collective Health & Wellbeing.

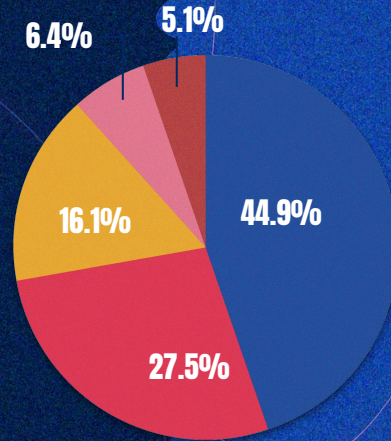
# 256

SUBMITTED

# 34 42

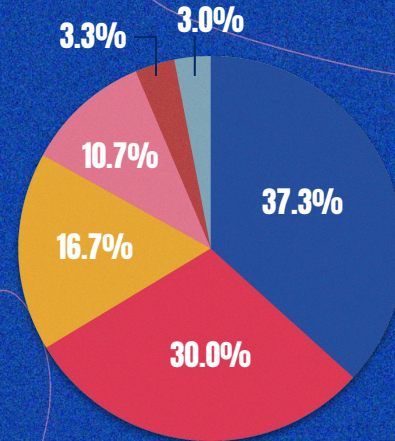
COUNTRIES

STATES



## SCHOOL TYPES

- Public Schools
- Not associated with a School Community
- Private or Independent Schools
- Other Types
- Charter Schools



## COMMUNITY ROLES

- Outside Organizations/Companies
- Teachers
- District Leader/Admin/Staff
- Educator/School Support, Facilitators
- Parents
- Students

# 51%

of innovators associated with schools come from Title I schools



# PROGRAM SUMMARY: EVALUATIONS & COLLABORATION

## EVALUATIONS

More than 30 educators, parents, students, and members from the internal team and partner organizations evaluated 20–30 solutions, each. The 214 solutions evaluated were done so three times, each, by an educator, parent, and internal team/partner organization member.

**32**

Evaluators

**214**

Solutions  
evaluated

**723**

Total  
evaluations

**>70%**

Average evaluator score  
for the vast majority  
of solutions selected for  
Solution Exchange

## COLLABORATION

Participants virtually collaborated with each other and Solutions Coaches.

**88**

Solutions were  
submitted  
by teams of  
innovators

**76%**

Of submitters noted that  
“connecting with other  
innovators” was a very  
valuable part of their  
(Re)Open experience

**539**

Comments on  
solutions

**75%**

Of solutions receiving at  
least 1 comment

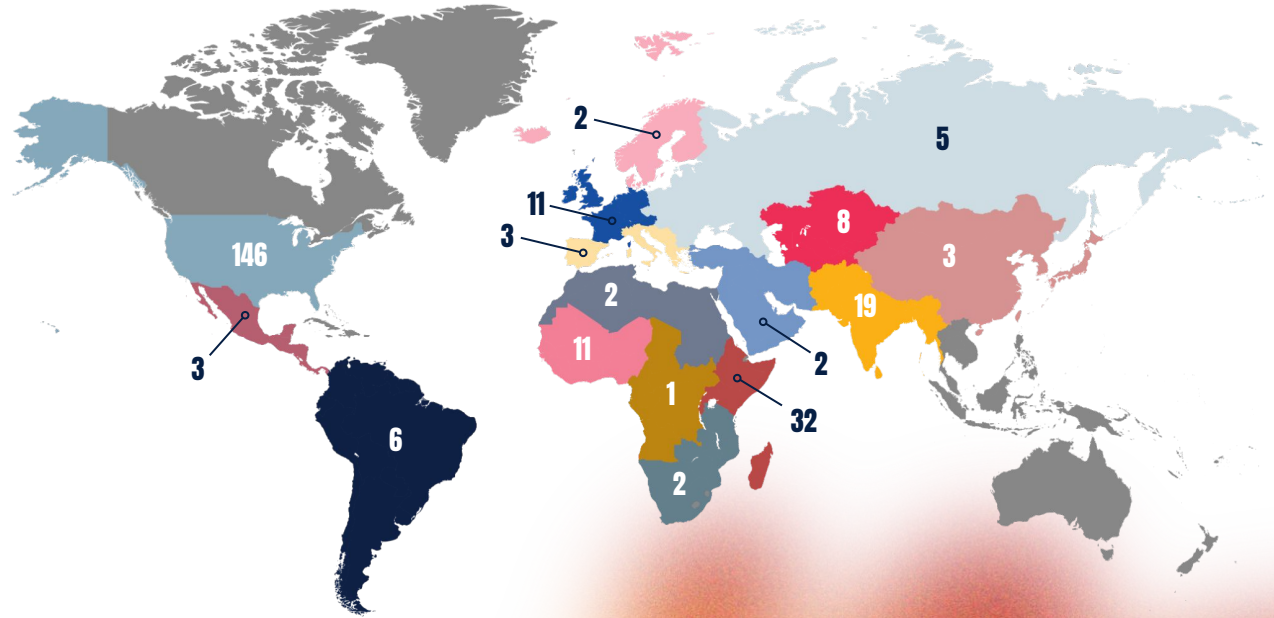


## GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD

### FROM MOST TO LEAST SUBMISSIONS

- Northern America: 146
- Eastern Africa: 32
- Southern Asia: 19
- Western Africa: 11
- Western Europe: 11
- Central Asia: 8
- South America: 6
- Eastern Europe: 5
- Eastern Asia: 3
- Central America: 3
- Southern Europe: 3
- Northern Europe: 2
- Western Asia: 2
- Northern Africa: 2
- Southern Africa: 2
- Central Africa: 1

### 42 STATES | 34 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

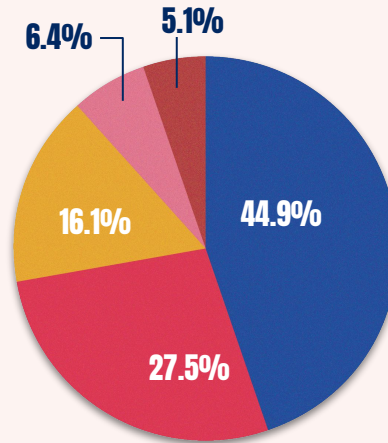




# PARTICIPANTS

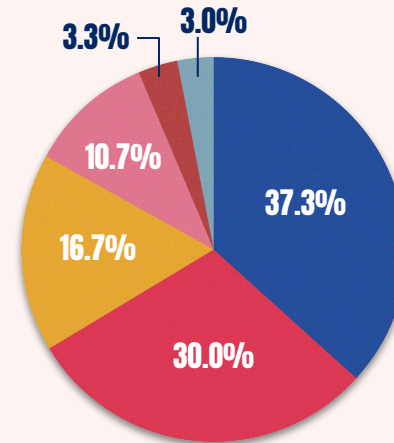
# 51%

of innovators associated  
with schools come from  
Title I schools



## SCHOOL TYPES

- Public Schools
- Not associated with a School Community
- Independent and Parochial Schools
- Other Types
- Charter Schools



## COMMUNITY ROLES

- Outside Organizations/Companies
- Teachers
- District Leader/Admin/Staff
- Educator/School Support, Facilitators
- Parents
- Students

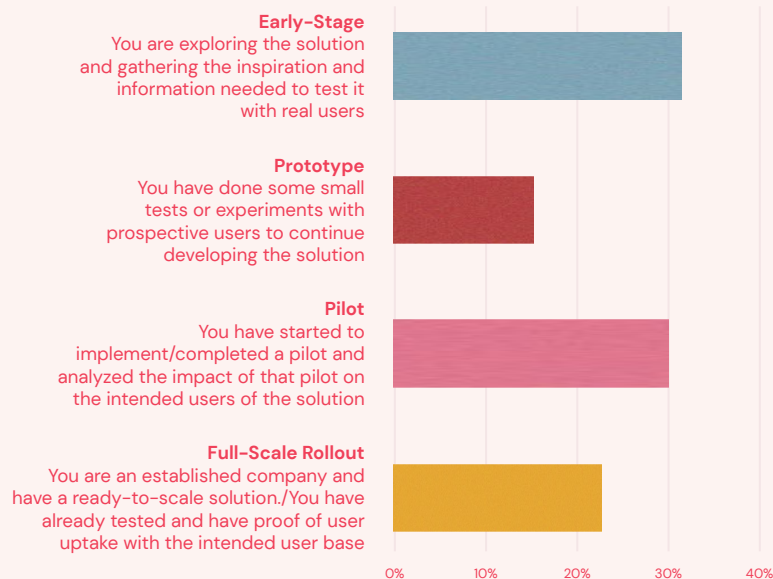


## SOLUTION TYPES

Across the (Re)Open themes, we observed specific patterns of submissions. Solution Coaches used these patterns to connect submitters with each other and could be a basis for potential collaboration in the future.

- **Providing communities access to basic needs**, such as food, Wi-Fi, counseling, and health services.
- **Rethinking education materials** – Provide updated content that is engaging and utilized different platforms.
- **Rethinking how education is delivered** – Utilize hybrid models, establish community partnerships that will teach children life skills, encourage collaboration among students, project based learning.
- **Listening to students** – For every step of the way, as schools reopen, allow students to participate and voice their concerns.
- **Marketplace for teachers** – Create a space for educators to share resources, obtain or teach professional development and take up additional work to supplement income.
- **Focusing on connection, relationships, and social emotional health**, as opposed to addressing the "learning recovery" narrative.
- **Mentorship for students** through trained volunteers, athletics, community partnerships, and afterschool programs.
- **Catching up on lost time** – Extend the academic year, offer after-school programs, create access to trained mentors.
- **Investing in schools** – Ask for local, state, and federal funds.

## WHAT IS THE STAGE OF YOUR SOLUTION NOW?





## EVALUATORS & SELECTION

**32** Evaluators

**214** Solutions evaluated

**723** Total evaluations

**>70%** Average evaluator score for the vast majority of solutions selected for Solution Exchange



## OVERHEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS


Via the platform, email, and social media, participants dynamically engaged with the (Re)Open team and each other.

Alan Safran <asafran@sagaeducation.org> Thu, Mar 25, 7:14 AM (4 days ago)  
to me ▾



I'm lit up by what you are kicking off! I'd like to support this by being a judge for the Solutions Exchange. Is that a possibility?

Best,  
Alan Safran

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**Alan PG Safran/he, his**  
President, co-founder and Chair of the Board  
#617-501-9401  
[www.sagaeducation.org](http://www.sagaeducation.org)



 **teacher Kristine Tsung**


Hi Danielle,

Coach Gilberto Cardenas helped connect Colors of Kindness and BuzzingBOTS. Last Friday, we had a productive zoom meeting and began brainstorming right away! We look forward to the next steps forward. If I should be doing anything else, please let me know.

best,

-Kristine 😊

04/26/2021 06:09 PM

 **Meghan B. Raehl, Ph.D.** • 6:12 PM

Wonderful, Thank you Danielle and this is incredible! Will definitely share across networks and thanks so much for connecting :)

Check out the SEL program Project ReCreation at [ProjectReCreation.podia.com](http://ProjectReCreation.podia.com)  
We use music video projects discussion and activities to help youth want to learn and take the reins of their own future

Project ReCreation Store

It's been approved by California Department of education and San Diego County office of education

I'm looking for a few institutions in which I can donate the program to and build a relationship with them and the community

Feedback on tools Community x

**Michelle Blanchet** <travis.blanchet@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 20, 3:49 AM (6 days ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

to me ▾

Hello,

This initiative looks wonderful! I currently live in Switzerland and due to timing it would be difficult to take part in most of these sessions. However, I'm very interested in this work and was wondering if it might be possible to connect with a coach?

We have a few tools we're using to help teachers launch their great ideas to improve teaching and learning. We are very interested in connecting with and learning from others who are putting innovation/design thinking/changemaking back into the hands of teachers. We'd love to see initiatives like these spread!

**Cristian Mitreanu**

Hello all,

(cc: @Gilberto Cardenas @Danielle Shingleton)

On Thursday, April 29, 1:00pm PST, I will be presenting and answer questions about the Ofmos solution in the NBEA (National Business Education Association) free webinar "Make Business Learning More Meaningful, Accessible, and Fun."

// I will definitely mention this OpenIDEO Challenge. 😊 //

If you have time and would like to join (it's free!), here are the links:

- Events calendar page [https://nbea.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://nbea.org/events/event_list.asp)
- Webinar registration page <https://nbea.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1479368>

Hope to see you there.

Cristian



# Reflections for the future of the Education Solutions Exchange and the (Re)Open community

## KEEP IT HUMAN

Users will visit the Solution Exchange for ideas and inspiration, but stay for the stories and people. Integrate voices and video, wherever possible, and distribute ownership to clearly communicate that the site is “by the community, for the community.”

## IDEAS

- Student-run podcast interviewing and following the solution implementation successes and challenges
- Stories about participants who’ve indicated they’ve established valuable connections already, with follow-up 6-12 months afterwards
- Participant workshops with breakout room time in dyads and triads, after guiding participants through a question design process

## KEEP IT ACTIVE

Like any source of information, the Solution Exchange will remain effective as long as it remains current. Strong marketing will help maintain site traffic and interactive and rotating features will make the site feel fresh and ever-evolving.

## IDEAS

- Regional meetups that encourage in-person networking through play-based problem-solving activities
- Series of articles or media content in USA Today Humankind, Morning America, Upworthy, and NowThis
- Integrate (Re)Open submission form on the site as an ongoing open call, which anybody can access at any time
- Feature “Solutions of the Week”

## KEEP IT CURATED

Educators and school communities don’t complain of a lack of available resources, but an unwieldy surplus. As the Exchange scales, prepare for how you might maintain quality, categorization, and intimacy—all characteristics of a well-curated experience for visitors.

## IDEAS

- ‘How To’ and ‘Best Practices’ Playbooks for reopening and non-reopening issues
- Stipend-supported, student-led cohort that regularly evaluates and comments on the relevance, impact, and adaptability of solutions
- Maintain transparency and diligence in which solutions get featured and why
- Incentives for submitters to regularly refine and communicate about their solutions





IDEO

RALLY

