2021-2022 Evaluation Executive Summary

Background

School2Home, the signature education initiative of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), builds the capacity of Title I Partner Schools to integrate technology into teaching, learning, and parent engagement. The School2Home framework comprises 10 Core Components designed to transform school culture to support improved student outcomes on various academic, social, and technological measures. A dedicated School2Home Team within CETF works with participating districts and schools for 3 to 5 years and sometimes longer, offering capacity-building support, guidance, and tools to successfully infuse technology into school practice as a catalyst for reform.   All Partner Schools were located in low-income, high-density neighborhoods with broadband adoption rates below the state average. On average, the 22 active Partner Schools enrollments were 78.5% Hispanic and 13.6% African American, with all other races and ethnicities below 4%. The average percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students was 91.8 %, much higher than the K-12 state average of 60.3%. Additionally, nearly a quarter of the students (24.0%) were English learners, compared to a statewide school average of 17.7%.

Key Findings

- **Partner Schools Made Substantial Implementation Progress.** The average implementation score for all Partner Schools was 23.5 out of a total possible score of 30. Led by the School Leadership Team, the culture and processes of School2Home were well established by the end of the year. The School Leadership Team comprises the principal and school personnel who serve as "Leads" for critical workstreams. This capacity-building approach aims to embed leadership and systems in the school culture.   Of note, when School Leadership Teams were asked in their year-end survey if their school had a "vision" for technology in learning, more than 70.0% said yes, less than 9.0% said no, and about 20.0% noted they were unsure. A shared technology vision is essential to an effective digital learning community.

- **Partner Schools Worked to Close the Digital Divide.** School2Home helps to close the Digital Divide by increasing families' home broadband adoption and developing their digital literacy through parent workshops. As a result, by the spring of 2022, 91.0% of parent survey respondents reported that they had affordable, subscription-based access to Internet in their home, compared to 84.0% in the spring of 2019.

- **School2Home Parent Workshops Increased the Technology Confidence of Caregivers.** Parent survey respondents who reported attending School2Home parent workshops registered higher confidence levels than those who did not participate. For example, parent workshop participation resulted in 14.7% more parents being confident in using the parent portal, 7.3% more parents being confident in using digital devices and 6.7% more parents being confident in advancing digital citizenship with their child.

- **School2Home Helped Improve Home-School Communications.** Decades of research have demonstrated family engagement is critical to student success in school. However, parent engagement is a significant challenge in high-need schools such as those served by School2Home. School2Home works to overcome barriers to engagement and provides parent workshops on technology, advocacy for devices and broadband in the home, and professional learning opportunities for teachers and staff on family engagement's value and practical implementation strategies.

Over the last 3 years, parent engagement has increased significantly through the strategic use of online portals, digital communications, and workshops to empower parents to use these digital tools effectively. For example, the percentage of parent survey respondents who say they interact with their child's teacher through technology has increased from 20.0% in 2019 to 48.0% in 2022. During the same timeframe, parental satisfaction with the information sent out from the school increased from 60.0% to 89.0%. And the percentage of parent survey respondents who say they regularly access the parent portal to check their child's attendance, grades, and assignments has increased from 42.0% in 2019 to 52.0% in 2022.

- **Technology Tools at Home Resulted in Extended Learning Time for Students and Teachers.** In spring 2022, 52.7% of student survey respondents said they used their digital device daily to learn from home, while another 27.7% reported weekly use. Teachers are more likely to incorporate technology in homework assignments and to involve families in learning.   A teacher from Central Middle School in Riverside USD shared an example of outreach to parents:

> *"I use technology to connect parents with what is happening in the classroom, sending detailed summaries of what will be learned in the class along with a checklist of what will happen during the week so parents can keep track of what their child needs to be doing."*

- **Partner School Teachers have Redesigned Lessons to Deepen and Personalize Students' Use of Technology.** The School2Home Professional Learning for teachers is focused on increasing the effectiveness of technology for learning. Since the spring of 2019, technology in School2Home Partner Schools has become more frequent, complex, and relevant. In many Partner Schools, curricula are now online, and teachers are expanding the breadth, depth, and relevancy of students' learning experiences.

- **Partner Schools Experienced Learning Loss, but at Lower Rates than the State Middle School Average.** A critical objective of School2Home is to increase the academic achievement of students in Partner Schools. School2Home specifically targets Title I schools, which serve a high proportion of challenged students. The spring 2022 state testing results found that the 22 School2Home Partner Schools were more than 15 percentile points below the state averages for middle schools in English language arts (ELA) and math. While the School2Home cohort experienced learning losses from spring 2019 to spring 2022, it was at a lower rate than middle schools statewide in ELA and math.

- **Partner Schools that implemented the School2Home Core Components with fidelity achieved higher academic proficiency.** The School2Home Theory of Change is that implementing its Core Components will contribute to increased academic learning. Statistical analysis for 2022 revealed that those Partner Schools with higher implementation scores for the School2Home Core Components tended to achieve higher proficiency levels in ELA and math. While this does not necessarily constitute a causal link, the positive correlations between School2Home implementation and academic proficiency were statistically at moderate to high levels.

In summary, School2Home has demonstrated the power of technology in Title I Schools to extend learning time, engage families in learning, and deepen teachers' ability to engage students in 21st Century Skills. Other Title I Schools could benefit from this comprehensive intervention to leverage their investments in digital technologies in service of Digital Equity and student learning.