

**LESSONS FOR EDUCATION – Joint Webinar Series**  
**RESOURCES AND SUMMARY NOTES OF PAST EVENTS**

**Distance Learning in São Paulo:**

**One of Latin America’s Largest School Systems**

<b>Date:</b>	July 23, 2020	
<b>Event Description:</b>	<p>The state of São Paulo in Brazil has one of the largest school systems in Latin America, with 3.5 million students, 5 100 schools and 190 000 teachers. Despite the complexity related to its size and diversity, it was the first state in Brazil to implement consistent measures to respond to school closures due to the COVID19 pandemic. Three features stand out in the measures taken by the State Department of Education: agile planning, mobilization of key actors and funders, and rapid implementation. In a period of 41 days it was able to put together effective measures to provide learning as well as social support to students and their families, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged. Strong leadership, collaborative work of a dedicated executive team and a network of influential donors are credited to have made the quick response possible.</p>	
<b>Recording:</b>	<a href="#">video on Facebook</a>	
<b>Speakers:</b>	<p><b>Rossieli Soares</b>, Education Secretary, São Paulo  <b>Lucia Dellagnello</b>, President and CEO, Center of Innovation for Brazilian Education-CIEB  <b>Patricia Vazquez</b>, former Secretary of Education, Puebla, Mexico  <b>Andreas Schleicher</b>, Director, Education and Skills, OECD.  <b>Fernando M Reimers</b>, Professor, International Education, Harvard Graduate School</p>	
<b>Background materials:</b>	<p><a href="#">Continuity Story of the São Paulo experience</a>  <a href="#">Other continuity stories</a> from across the world</p>	
<b>Lessons learned:</b>	<p><b>Leadership as a distributed enterprise.</b> In Sao Paulo the leadership embraced a diverse group of members of the society to provide front-line insights and feedback, and partnered exceptionally closely with the civil society and private sector who offered technological support, content and other additional support.</p> <p><b>Using the crisis to speed up the processes and increase innovation by using rapid prototyping.</b> State of Sao Paulo developed an Educational Media Center as an alternative education delivery system in a matter of weeks by prototyping and iterating, and quickly tested and adjusted other solutions as well.</p> <p><b>Communicating effectively and building trust.</b> Sao Paulo was proactive and quick to develop a plan of action and communicate it broadly among all constituents. Modern</p>	

technology has helped the secretary of Education of São Paulo to remain connected with a large group of stakeholders throughout the pandemic, open dialogue with the teacher community being particularly important.

**Inclusion.** Sao Paulo's approach was to make sure that teachers and other education officials followed-up with *every individual student* to make sure their needs were met. Acknowledging that technology would not be accessible to everyone, Sao Paulo subsidized devices and connectivity but also created high-quality paper packages.

**Holistic approach,** taking care of the different needs of students, and especially of the vulnerable populations. Brazil rapidly implemented a conditional cash transfer program to make sure that students would have access to meals and other necessities creating a sense of security.

**Vision.** Secretary Rossieli has a vision for the education in Sao Paulo and Brazil that goes far beyond to the crisis, and the initiatives responding to the current problems are all linked to the broader, longer term development objectives.

**About the Series:**

*[The World Bank Group Education Global Practice](#), [Harvard Global Education Innovation Initiative](#), [HundrED](#), and the [OECD Directorate for Education and Skills](#) have combined their expertise on education to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. As part of this joint initiative, the institutes have gathered information from around the world on how countries are responding to the crisis in the education sector. The webinar series highlights some of the experiences.*