

# Voices from the Field: Reflections on COVID - Looking Back to Look Ahead

## Summer 2021

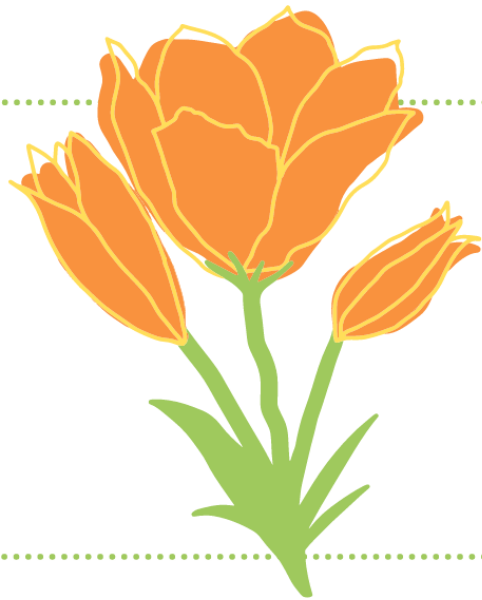
### The climate of the crises was harsh & harmful because...

- SO MUCH OF THE WORK FELT TRANSACTIONAL
- THE SENSE OF URGENCY LED TO ISOLATION
- PEOPLE'S LIVES WERE ON THE LINE (US AS EDUCATORS, THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE)
- THEY LOST IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS WITH STUDENTS AND CAREGIVERS
- THEY OVEREXTENDED OURSELVES OUT OF FEAR
- THEY EXPERIENCED FEAR-BASED, REACTIVE POLICIES



### Educator tenacity bloomed because...

- THEY BUILD OUTSIDE-THE-BOX COALITIONS TO SERVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES
- THEY INCREASED OUR AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF
- THEY BECAME MORE ADAPTIVE AND AGILE, CANDID, SUPPORTIVE AND BOUNDARIED WITH THEMSELVES AND EACH OTHER
- THEY BUILT BRIDGES BETWEEN EDUCATION + BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS TO CREATE RESPONSIVE AND INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICES
- THEY LEARNED IT'S OK TO NOT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS
- THEY TENDED TO THEIR NERVOUS SYSTEMS (EVERY DAY!) AND SELF-REGULATED THROUGH COLLECTIVE CARE



### Partner with educators to continue nourishing growth by...

- EXPLORING HOW IDENTITIES INFLUENCE LEADERSHIP - THIS WORK IS PERSONAL
- CREATING HUMANIZING SPACES AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING ONLINE (ESPECIALLY ONLINE)
- GENERATING MENTAL HEALTH AND GRIEF SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF
- REGULATING OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER DAILY
- BUILDING MEANINGFUL CONNECTION ACROSS SECTORS AND IN AFFINITY BY ROLE (STATE LEADERS NEED THEIR OWN SPACE TO NURTURE THEIR CRISIS LEADERSHIP)
- CONNECTING VERSUS ASSESSING (THEY'LL TELL YOU WHAT THEY NEED YOU TO KNOW)
- PROTECTING AND SUSTAINING EDUCATORS - INCLUDING SUPPORT STAFF - SO WE DON'T LEAVE THE FIELD

