



OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

**EDREDESIGN**

THE EDREDESIGN LAB

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF EDUCATION

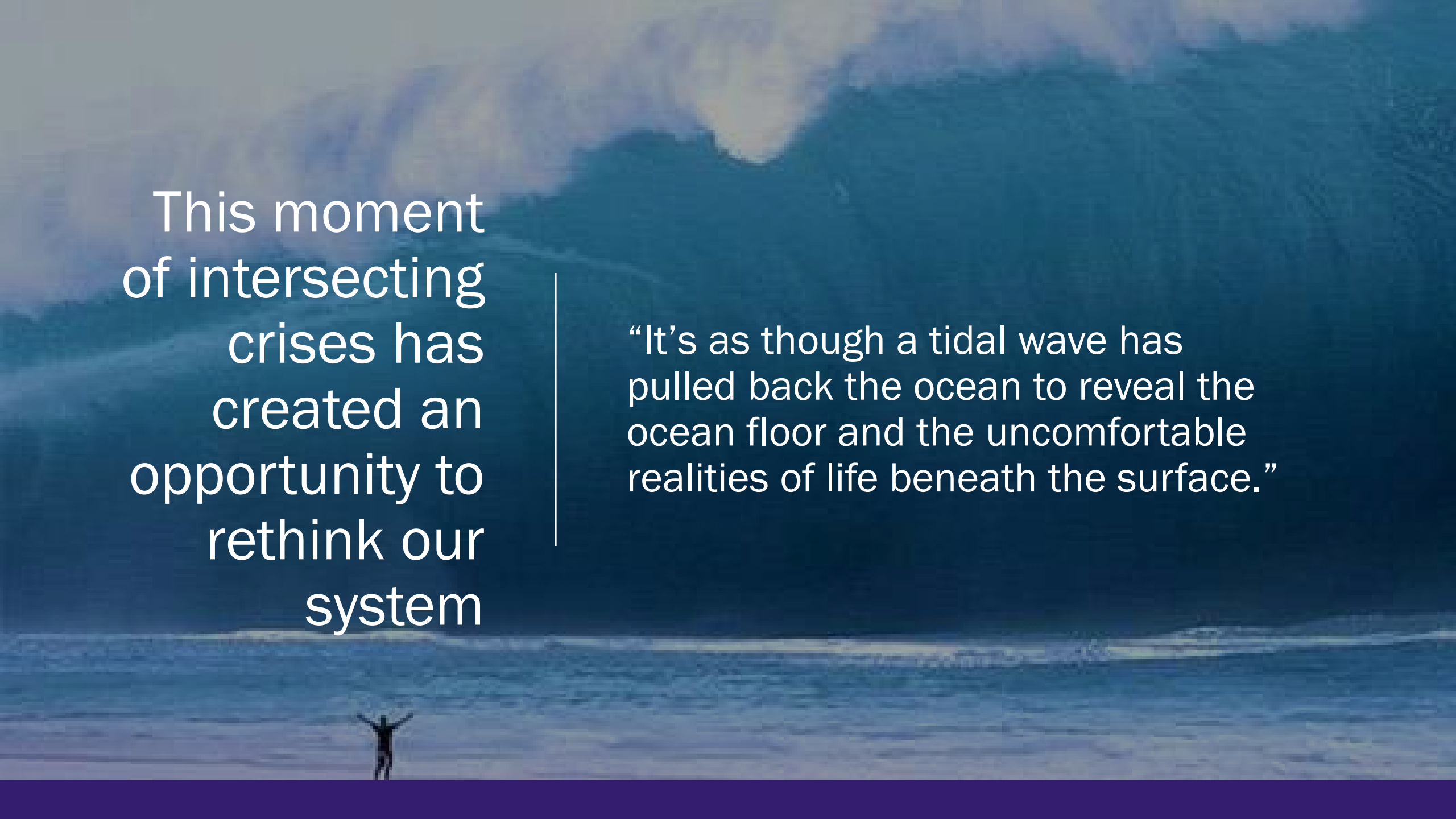
# By All Means Summer Retreat

July 21, 2022 • CAMBRIDGE, MA



**THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE.**

**Every child deserves the  
opportunity to succeed.**

A person stands on a beach with their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or contemplation. The ocean stretches out before them, meeting a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is one of hope and reflection.

This moment  
of intersecting  
crises has  
created an  
opportunity to  
rethink our  
system

“It’s as though a tidal wave has pulled back the ocean to reveal the ocean floor and the uncomfortable realities of life beneath the surface.”

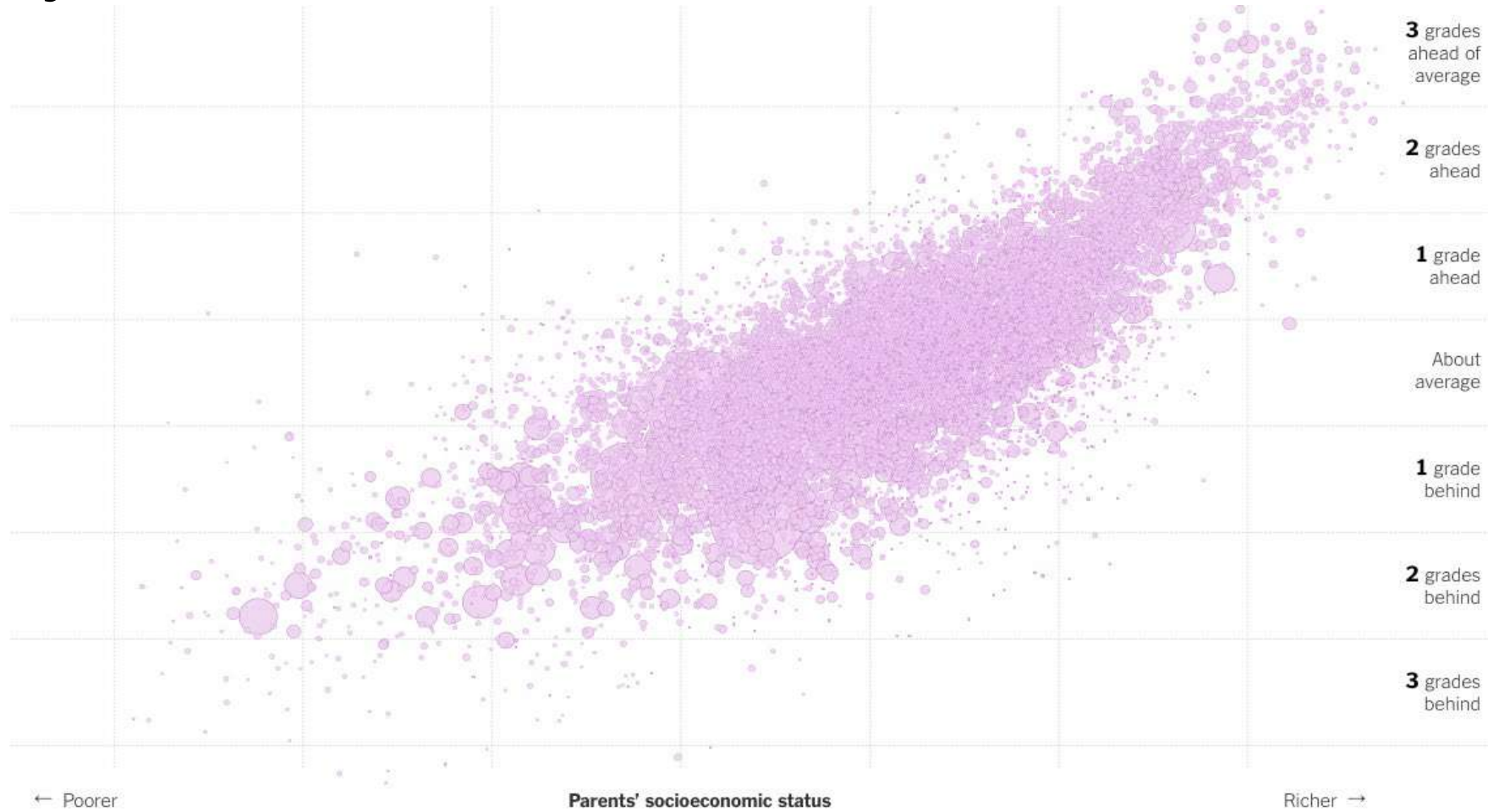


**Education** then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the **balance-wheel of the social machinery.**

— *Horace Mann*



# Socioeconomic Status and Educational Achievement are Tightly Linked



Graphic from the *New York Times*, based on 2016 work done by Sean Reardon, Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University.

# Wealth Disparities Prevent Opportunities to Thrive

REPORT: BLACKS IN BOSTON HAVE A MEDIAN NET WORTH OF \$8, WHITES HAVE \$247K

by Selena Hill  
December 13, 2017



(Image: iStock/KiskaMedia)



# Schools alone can't get us to "all means all"

Services are fragmented, hard to access, and not available to everyone.

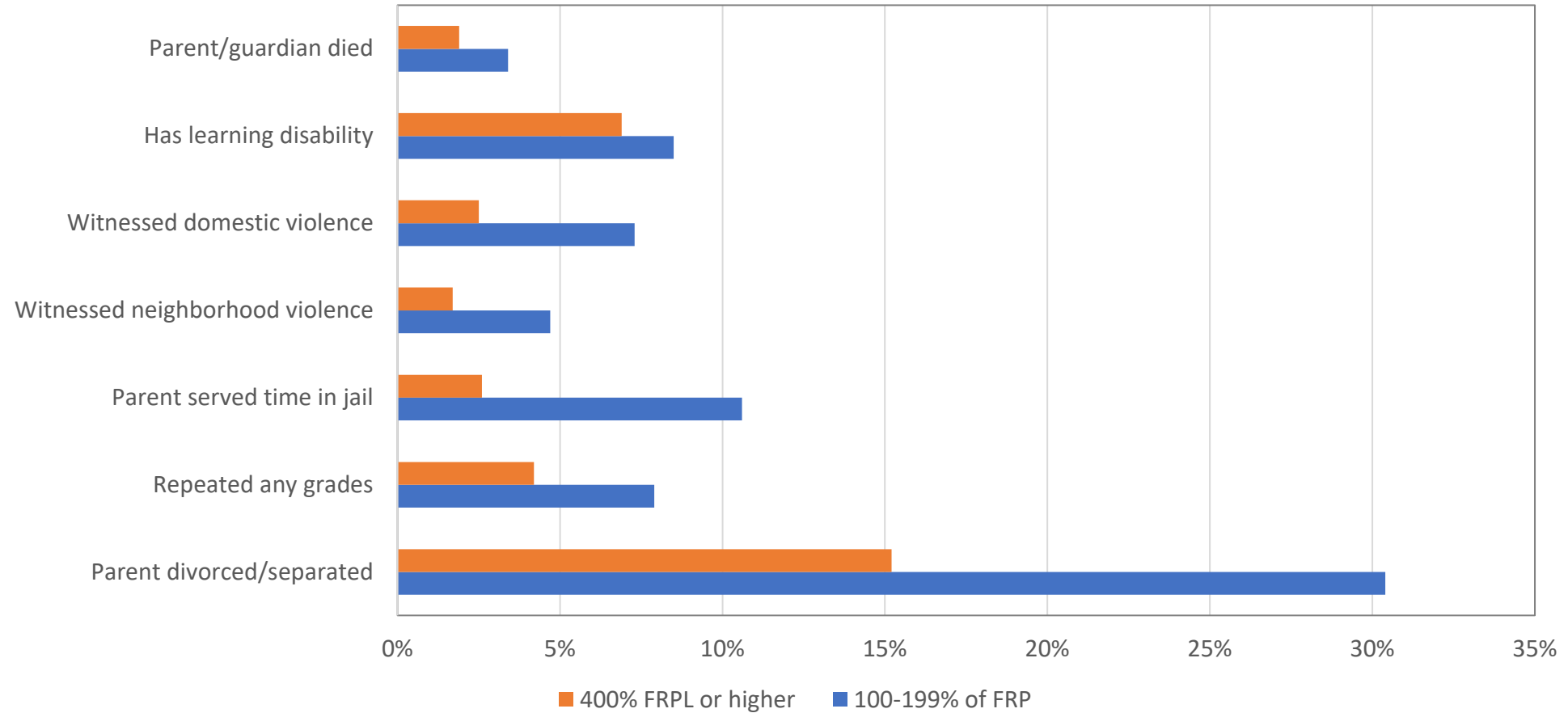
Schools are being asked to do more all the time to meet children's needs without adequate support, time or staffing. **They should not be expected to take on these responsibilities alone.**

Behind these unequal outcomes are income-based gaps in opportunities and life experiences





# Adverse Childhood Experiences of U.S. Children Aged 0-17 by Parental Income (2016)



Source: National Survey of Children's Health (2016).

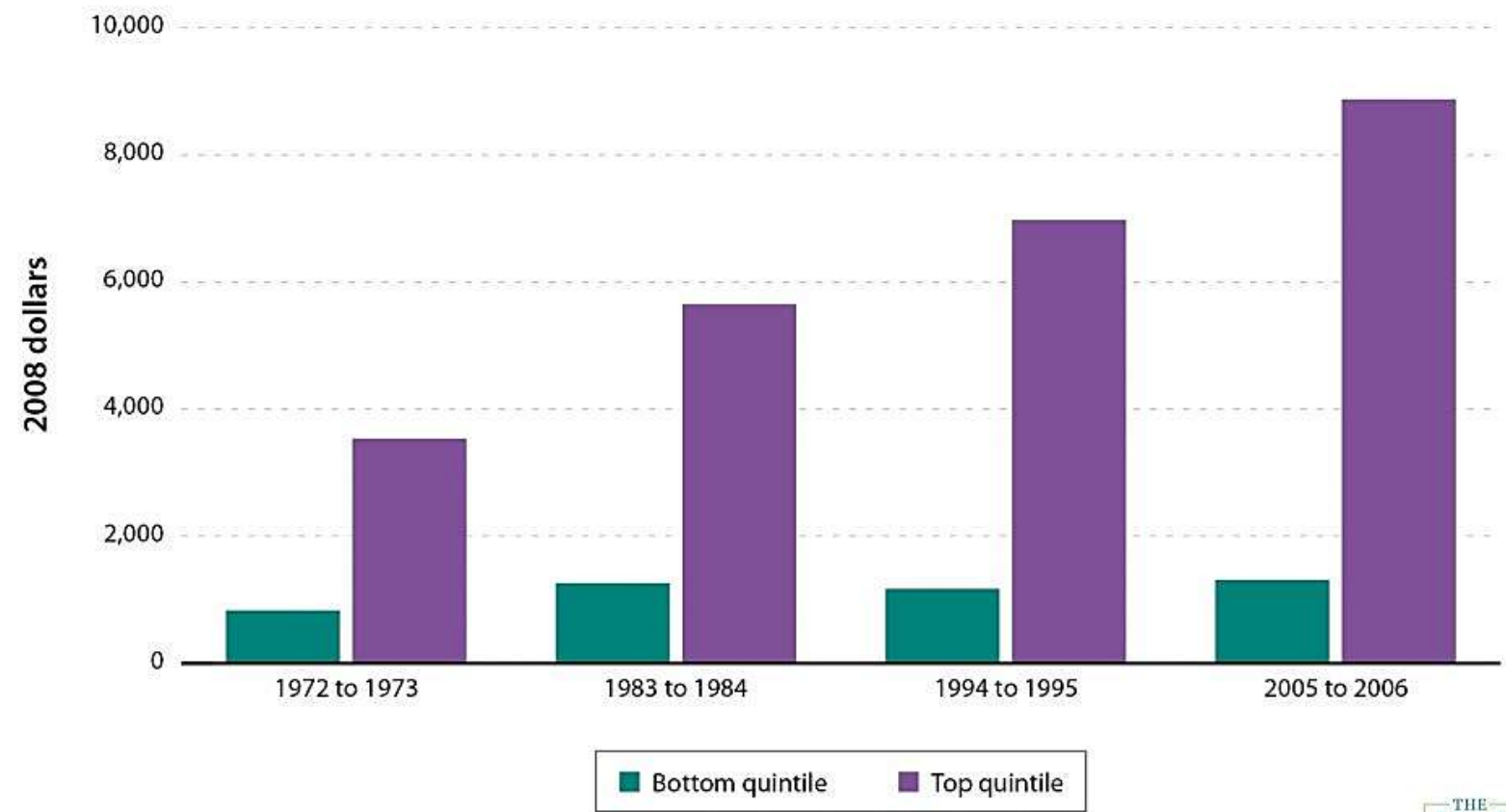


# Support Opportunities and Life Experiences: Family Enrichment Expenditures



## Enrichment Expenditures on Children

High-income families spend about seven times more on their children than low-income families.



Source: Duncan and Murnane (2011).

Note: For a full description of enrichment expenditures, see the technical appendix.



Even **before** the pandemic, we **weren't meeting** children's needs



In 2019, **10 million** children lived in **poverty**



In 2018, 4.3 million children were **uninsured**



In 2018, a child or teen was **arrested every 43 seconds**



In 2017, more than 1 in 6 children lived in **food-insecure** households



In SY 2016-2017, 1.4 million public school children were **homeless**

# Needed: A New Vision

A new system of education and child development must support each child's needs inside and outside of school throughout their school years and all the way to employment.



“Meet them where they are.”

“Give them what they need.”





# Pathway of Cradle to Career Supports and Opportunities



Adapted from the Forum for Youth Investment

# We need to move to an integrated service model such as Finland's

What do they invest in?



## Universal Maternity Leave

Allowance pays parents for 4.2 months

## Early Childhood Education

Heavily subsidized by government; 80% of 3-5 year-olds enrolled

## K-12 College & Career Pathways

Highly trained & compensated teachers

## Healthcare for All

Primarily funded through taxes

## Free Higher Education

## Low Child Poverty

Finland: 4%  
United States: 17%

Through **collaborative action**,  
a community can leverage its resources to ensure **every child** has the **opportunity to succeed**



# Children's Cabinet: One Approach to Cross Sector Collaboration

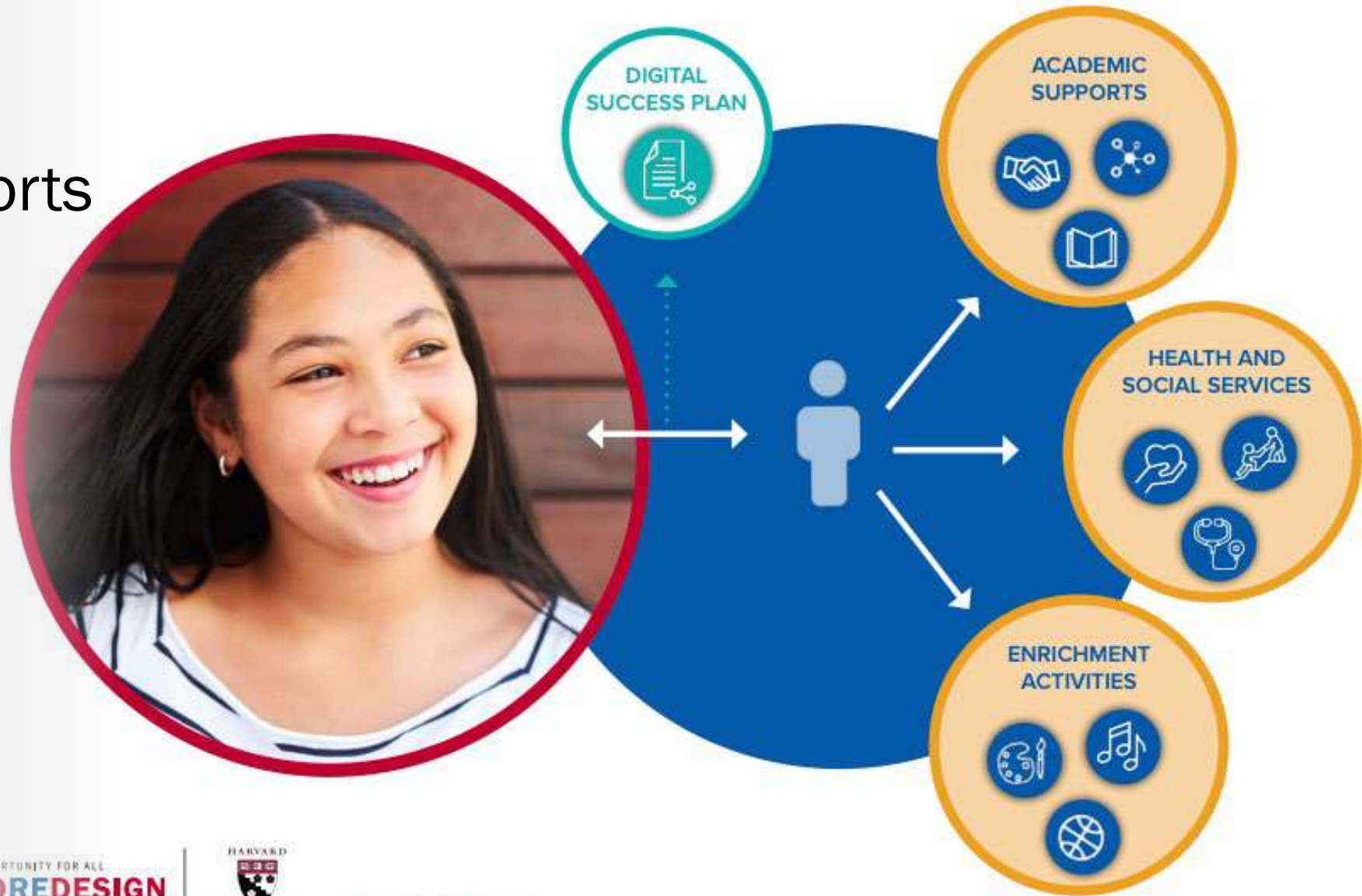
Imagine if leaders of all of the agencies and organizations that serve children and youth in your community came together at one table to improve their collective ability to meet the needs of kids. Picture your superintendent talking with your head of libraries, strategizing with your health commissioner, and collaborating with your summer and afterschool providers to create a civic ecosystem that enables all children to thrive. We call this a children's cabinet.





# Success Plans: Personalized Supports for Each Student

- Dynamic tools for capturing children's strengths, interests, and needs and matching them with customized supports and opportunities – both in and out of school
- Fosters meaningful relationships between each youth and a caring adult navigator who can serve as a connector to supports and opportunities





**Support and relationships are more important than ever in this moment**



**Cross-Sector Collaborations:** Bringing together government, schools, and community organizations to coordinate supports and opportunities for children, supported by a backbone organization. There is a lot schools can do, but they can't do it alone.

**Navigator:** A caring adult advocate who has or can build a trusting relationship with a student and who will lead coordinating the implementation of the Success Planning process with and for that student

**Success Planning:** Pairing each child with a caring navigator to help them access supports and opportunities based on their individual needs and interests, both in and out of school


# An Ecosystem of Support



# Spotlight: Nashville Public Schools

- Every student has a Navigator; every school has a Navigator Lead
- Weekly one-on-one check-ins on SEL supports, academics, and needs/challenges and coordinate support
- Provided a handbook and short initial training video to Navigators
- Data is centrally tracked
- Quick launch and implementation





“Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.”

- Arundhati Roy, *The Pandemic Is a Portal*