



CROSS & JOFTUS

Building a 21st Century Nevada Plan

*Presentation to the
Committee to Study a New Method for
Funding Public Schools
April 20, 2012*

Exhibit D

Cross & Joftus Team

Christopher T. Cross – Chairman

14 years experience in Nevada education policy – assisted development of *Nevada's Promise: Equity, Excellence, & Rigor*, advisor to Council on Academic Standards
National efforts such as Gates Foundation's School Finance Redesign Project

Richard C. Seder – Associate

Worked nationally and internationally on education finance and governance policy and systems development

Robert Manwaring – Associate

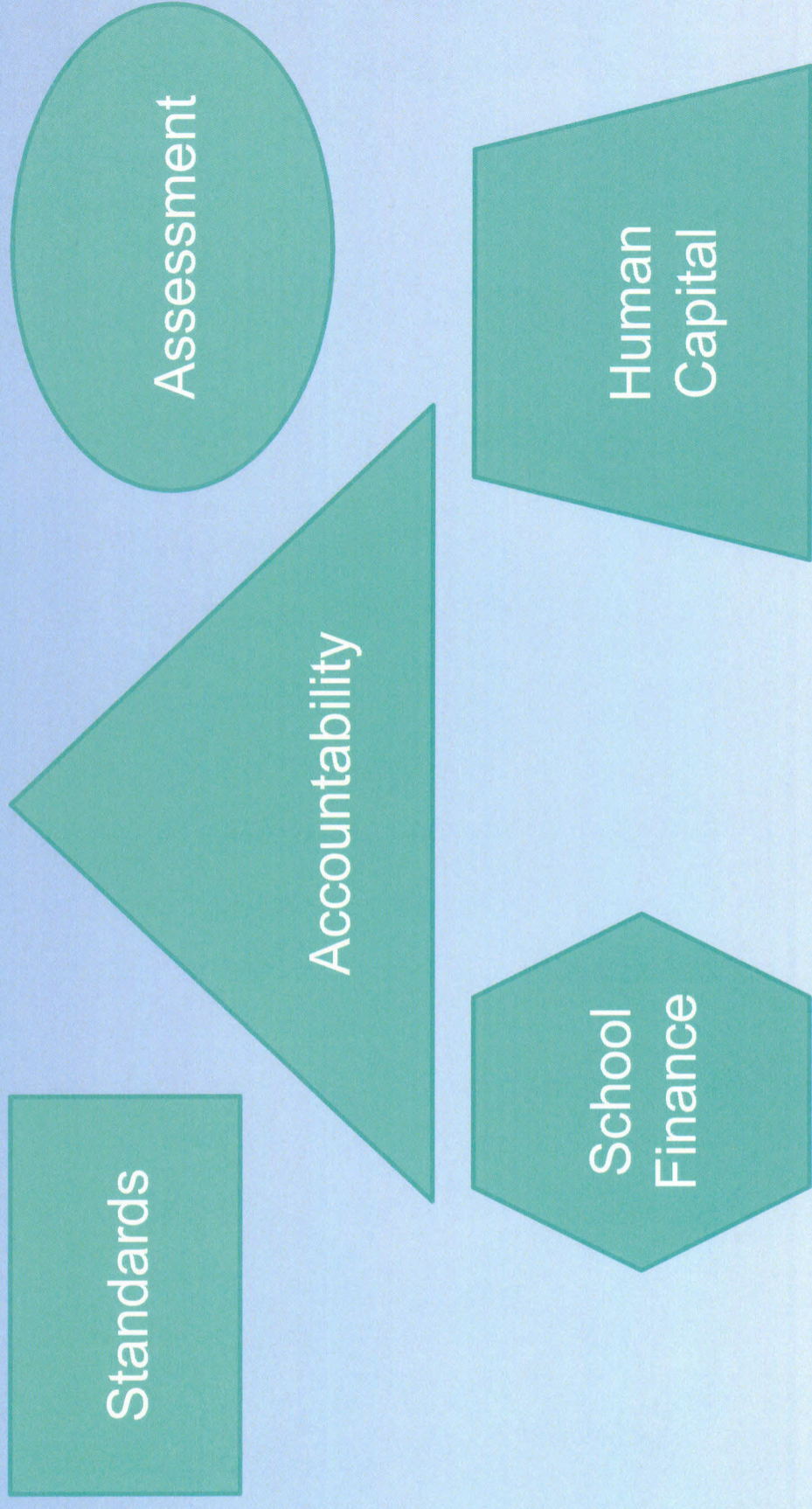
Policy director of California's Governor's Committee on Education Excellence;
Director of California Legislative Analyst Office K-12 Division

Victoria Carreon – Associate

Nevada-based expertise working with state policymakers and local school districts on school finance and budgeting, including how to best leverage state and federal categorical funds for school improvement

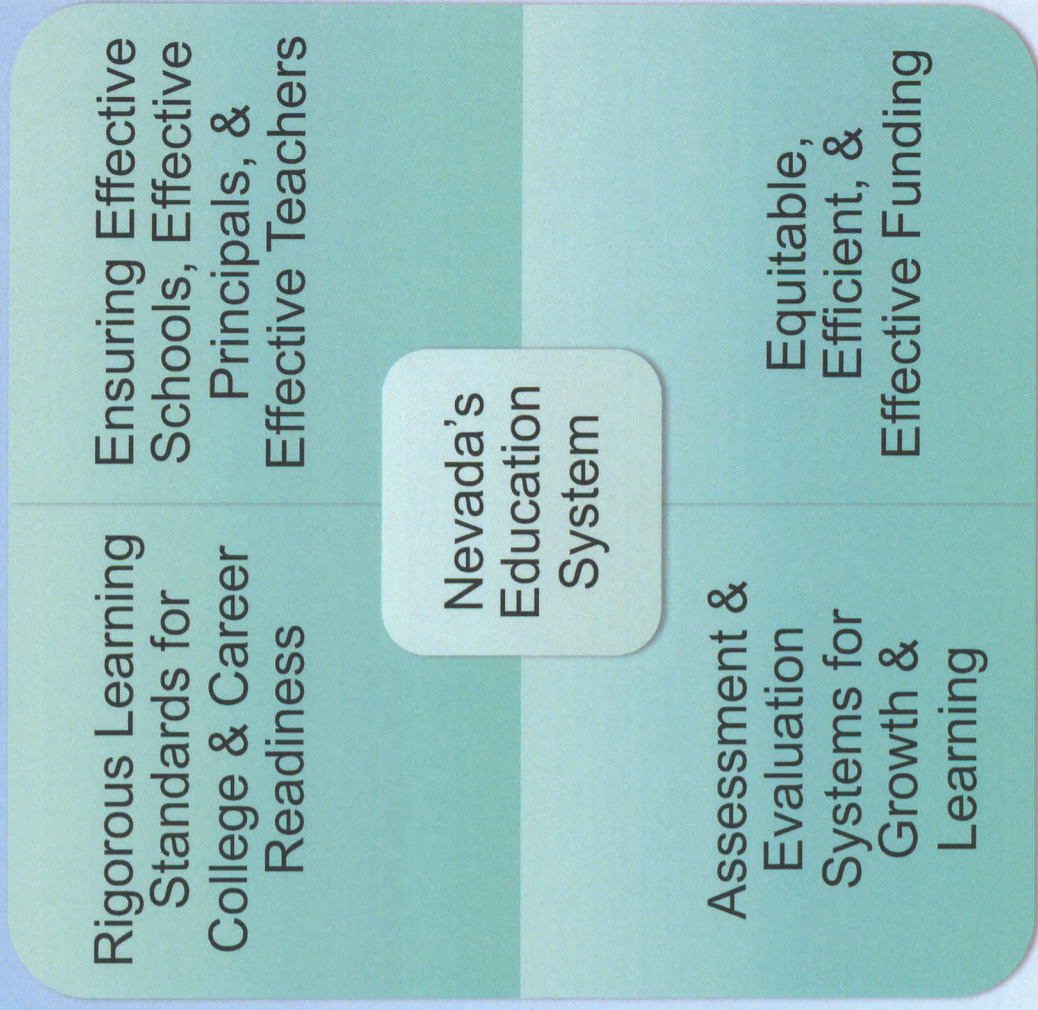


**Too often education is seen as distinct
and separate parts....**



Cross & Joftus Approach: Creating Coherent Systems

- The education system should be seen as inter-connected pieces of an entire system
- Coherent systems: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts
- Equitable, Efficient, & Effective funding system integrated with the whole



A 21st Century Nevada Plan: *Analytical Framework*

- Clear Funding Policy Strategies Aligned to Education System Goals
 - Continuing the efforts of Blue Ribbon Panel and 2011 Legislature and the vision of Nevada's *Promise*
- Equitable and Efficient Funding Mechanisms
- Stable & Predictable Funding
- Transparent Formulas, Allocations, and Monitoring



Building on Existing Strengths

- Nevada Plan largely seen as an equitable system in addressing school and district needs
 - Explore options to strengthen school and district needs adjustments
- Explore a more equitable Nevada Plan that addresses diversity of Nevada student needs
 - Alternatives for special education
 - English Learners (EL), economically disadvantaged, and other at-risk factors; gifted and talented



Creating a 21st Century Nevada Plan

- Learn from the experiences of other states, research, and leading practices
- Inventory of adjustments and programmatic approaches
- Comparison states chosen through robust criteria
- Understanding that one size doesn't fit all
- Explore not just the mechanisms, but how to structure those mechanisms within the context of the entire education system



A 21st Century Nevada Plan to Serve 21st Century Nevada Needs

- Engage directly with Nevada's education stakeholders to better understand
 - Wide variety of district and school needs
 - Growing set of student needs
- Meet with Nevada's 17 district superintendents
- Interview state and district leaders, state and local teacher union leaders, state and local school board leaders, civil rights leaders, and others across the state



C&J Team Work With the Committee

- Clearly articulated pros and cons of different approaches
- District-level and state-level financial estimates of alternative scenarios
- Implementation and phase-in alternatives for new funding formula mechanisms
- Recommendations for not just funding mechanisms, but how the funding system works within the larger education system



Cross & Joftus Commitment

- C&J brings Nevada, national, and international expertise to provide customized Nevada recommendations based on Nevada circumstances and context
- Continue C&J's working relationships with Nevada's educators and education policy community as part of a larger engagement strategy
- C&J recognizes Nevada's efforts to create a coherent education system; build on those efforts
- Integrating the Nevada Plan with the vision of Nevada's Promise





Thank you!

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