




The COVID-19 Cost of School Closures

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School Closures

Mid-April 2020, UNESCO reported 192 countries closed schools and universities, affecting more than 90% of world's learners: 1.5 billion children & young people



Every Year of Schooling
Raises Earnings by 8%

All Pandemics affect Economic & Social Well-Being

- Black Death (1347-1352) – 75 million dead – reduction in labor but higher agricultural wages
- Spanish Flu (1918-1920) – 100 million dead – lower income



Cost of School Closures



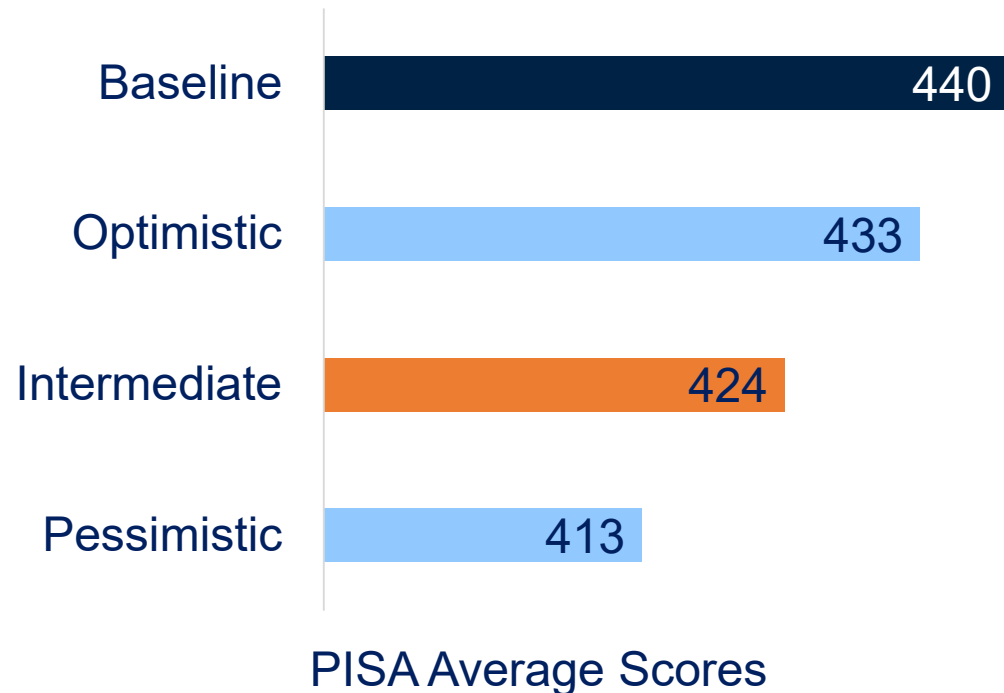
Learning Loss



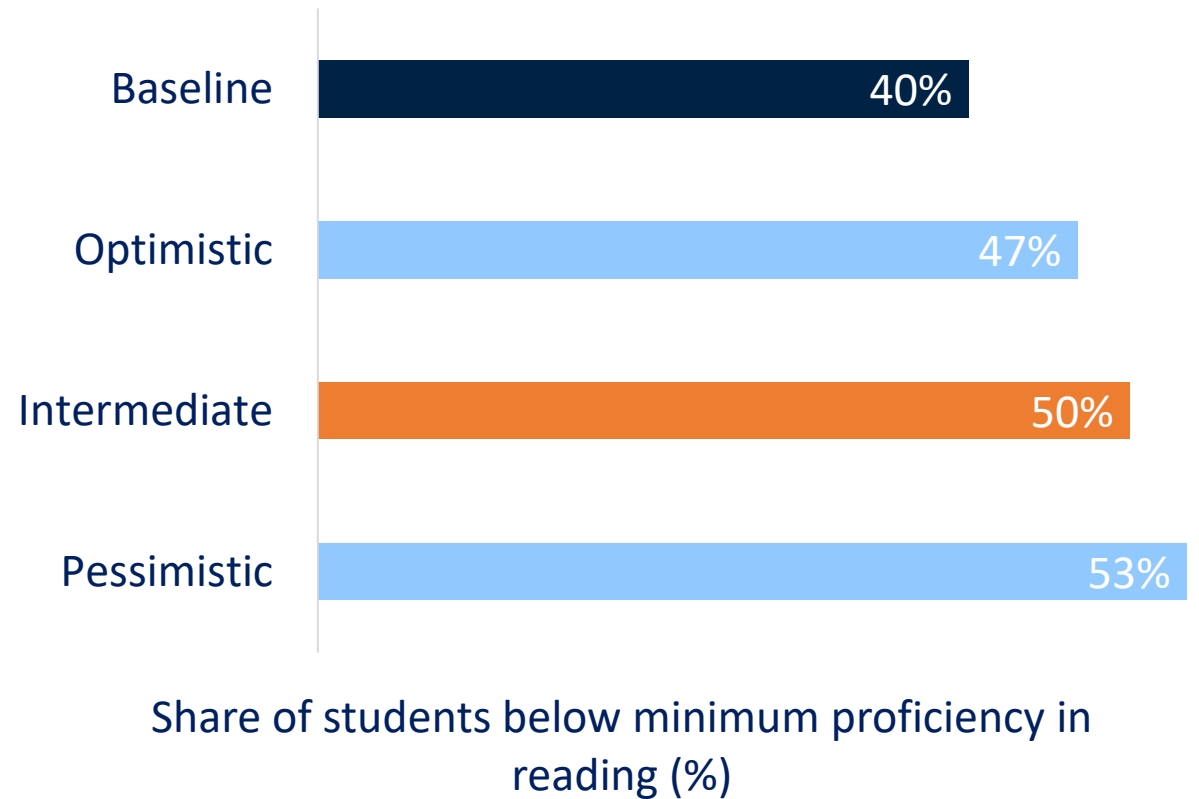
Earnings Loss

Globally the stock of learning will decline

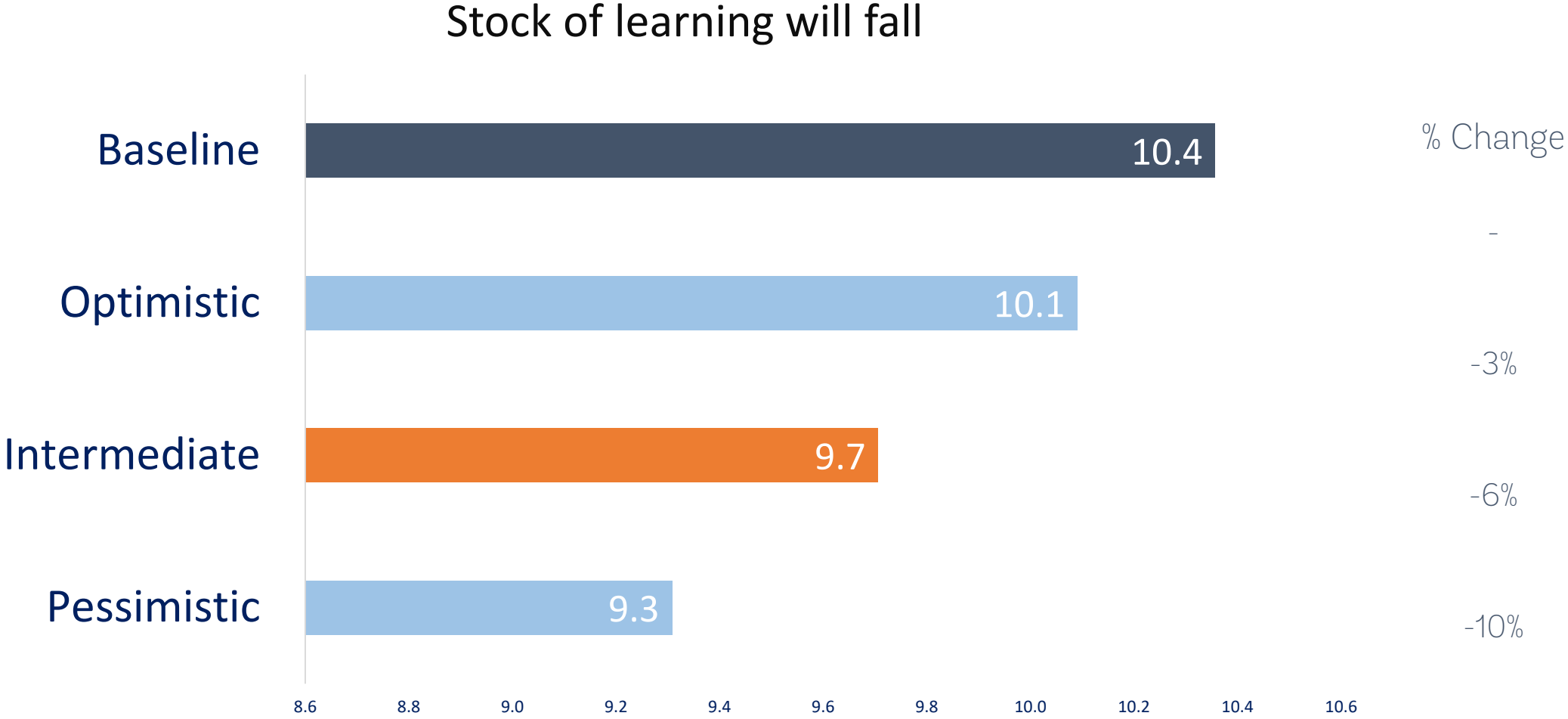
Learning will decline in terms of mean scores...



...increasing percentage of students falling below minimum proficiency by 10%



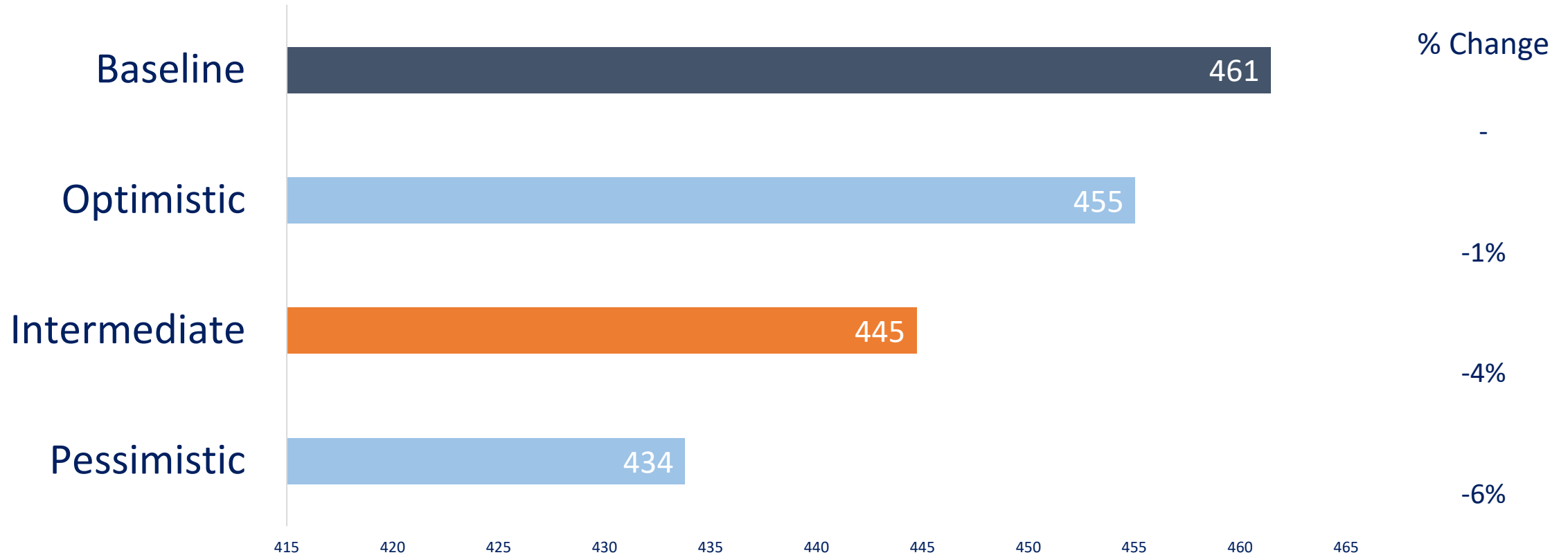
Europe and Central Asia: Quality of Schooling will Decline



Azevedo, J.P., Hasan, A., Goldemberg, D., Iqbal, S.A. and Geven, K., 2020. Simulating the Potential Impacts of COVID-19 School Closures on Schooling and Learning Outcomes)

Europe and Central Asia: Average student achievement will decline by up to 6%

PISA Average Scores will decline



Mitigation...but

- Limited capacity
- Weak student connectivity
- Constrained interactions
- Poor attendance





Estimates of
Economic Costs

Cost of School Closures

Today's student will lose future earnings

Countries will lose:
12-18% of current year national incomes



Cost of School Closures

Lifetime earnings losses:

- \$2,800 in low-income countries
- **\$6,800 in middle-income countries**
- \$21,000 in high-income countries
- Global level: \$11,000

Total impact for all 1.5 billion affected students:

- \$360 billion in low-income countries
- **\$6.8 trillion in middle-income countries**
- \$4.9 trillion in high-income countries
- Global level: \$11 trillion

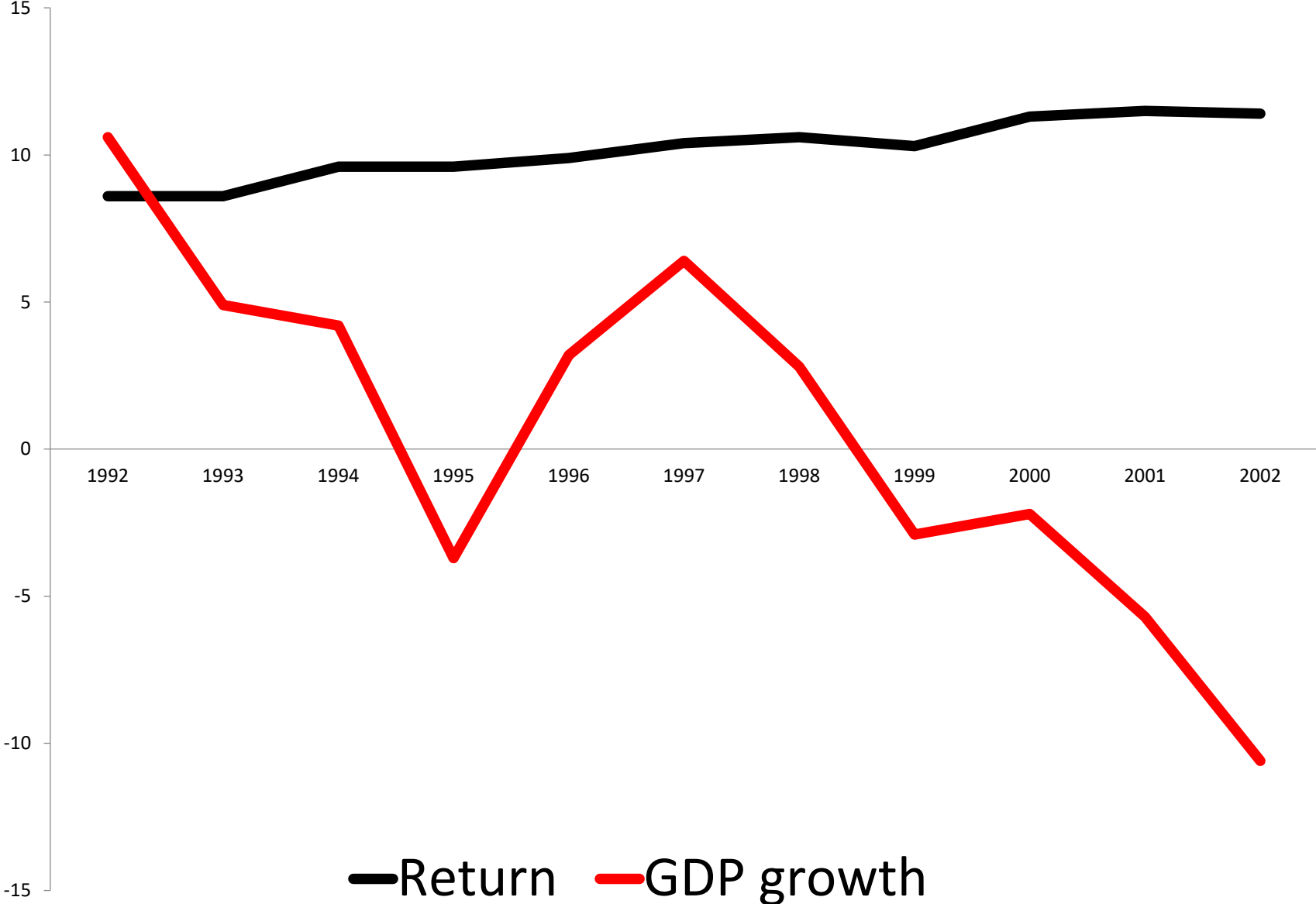


Differentiated Effects

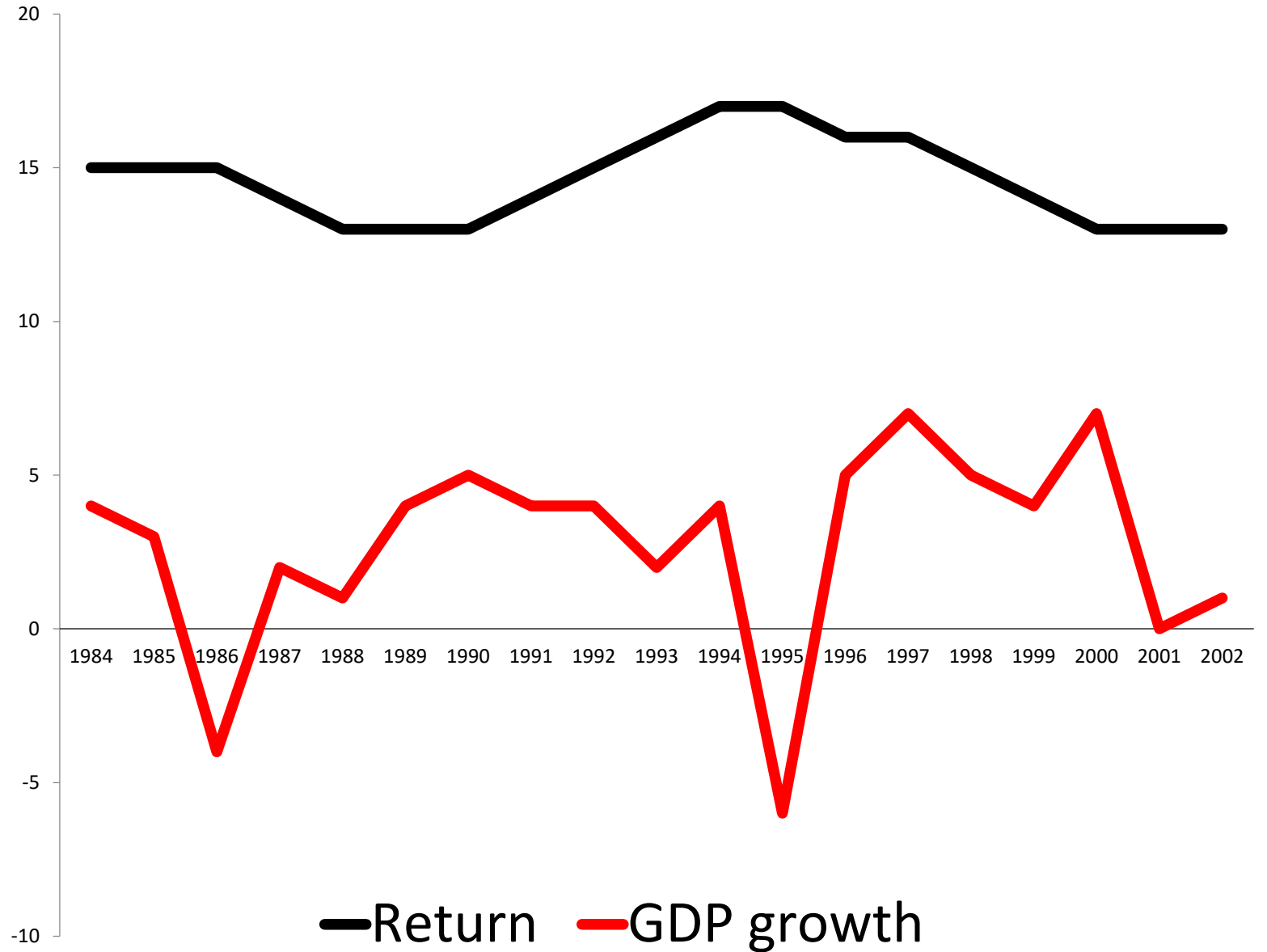
<u>Level of education</u>	<u>Annual loss</u>	<u>Lifetime loss</u>
Primary	\$272	\$6,700
Secondary	\$363	\$9,000
Tertiary	\$725	\$18,000



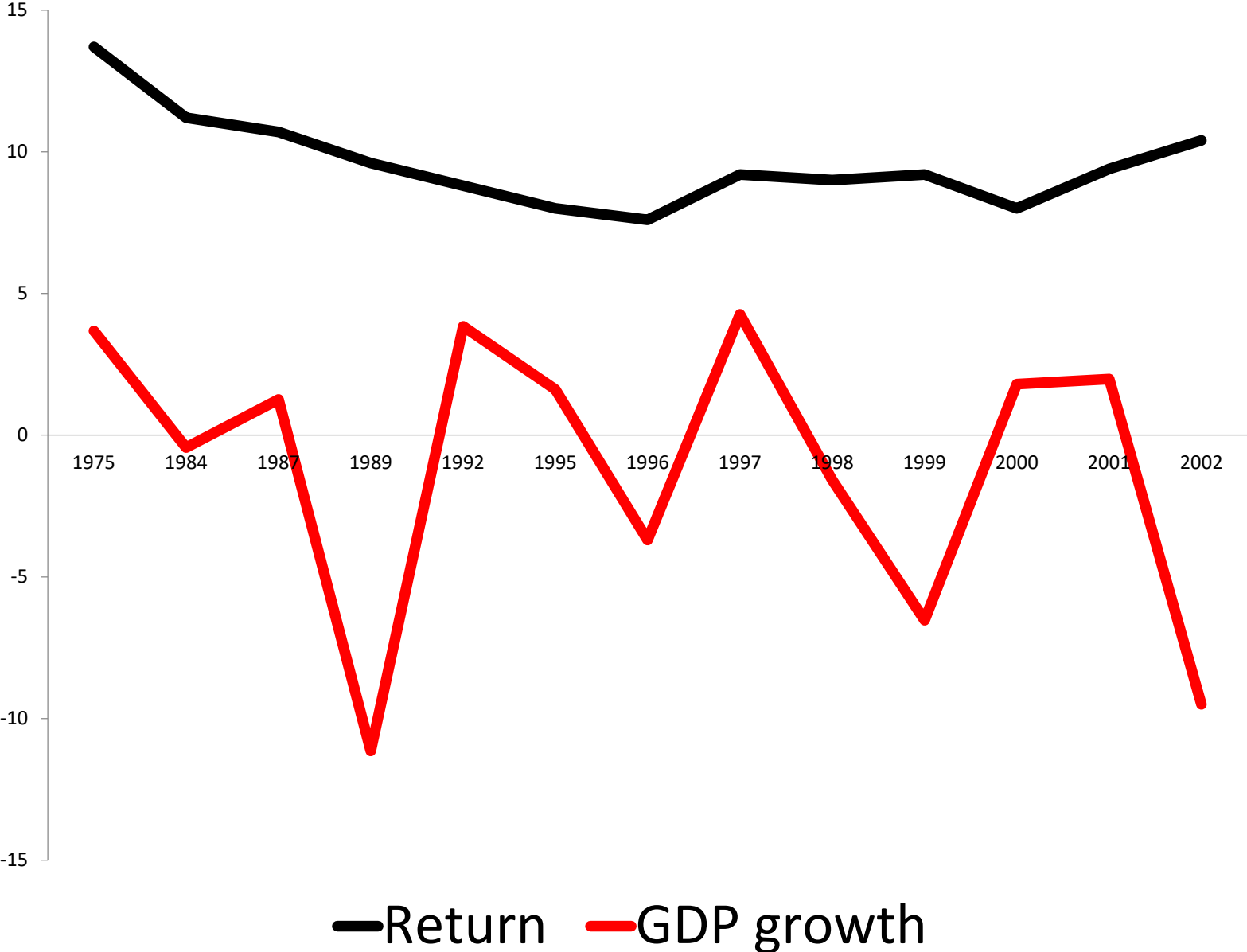
Real GDP Growth & Returns to Education in Argentina



Real GDP Growth & Returns to Education in Mexico



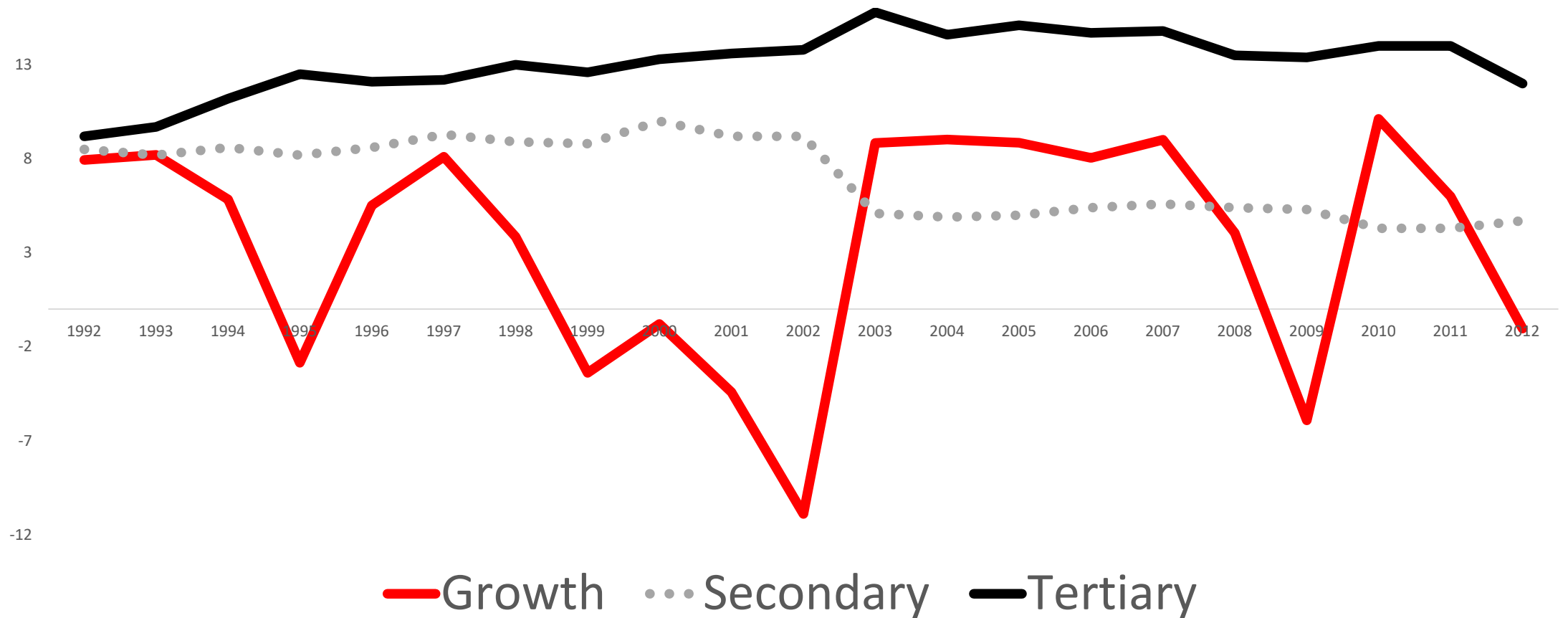
Real GDP Growth & Returns to Education in Venezuela



Real GDP Growth & Returns to Education in Greece



Real GDP Growth & Returns to Levels in Argentina



- Sweden: Little evidence that schools contribute to COVID
- Germany: Reduction in learning time
- Belgium: Significant actual learning loss
- Netherlands: Learning loss, especially among disadvantaged
- England: Year 7 pupils are 22 months behind where should be
- Switzerland: primary school pupils learning slows down, variance in learning gains increases
- USA (Dallas, Texas): 30% of students lost learning in reading and 50% of students lost learning in math

Europe

An Effective Response for Mitigating Learning Loss

Distance Education

- Investment in Emergency Connectivity and IT Infrastructure
- Production of Digital Content
- Build Institutional Capacity



Learning Loss Recovery

- Protect budget
- Promote equity in spending
- Just-in-time learning assessments
- High dosage tutoring
- Teach to the right level
- Teacher support
- Lifelong learning





Learning Transformation



Invest in Relevant Skills



Problem-solving

Learning

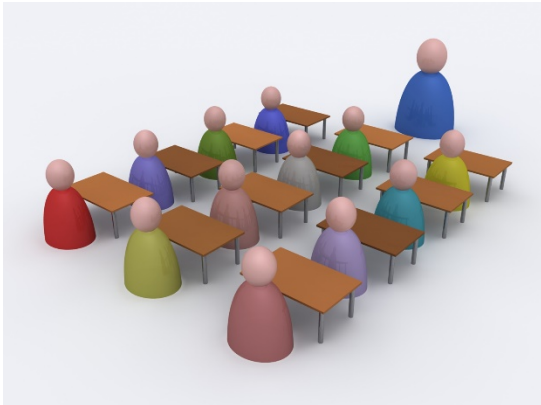
Communication

Personal

Social



Build Education 4.0



1st

Schoolhouse,
teacher,
students



2nd

Collaboration,
technology,
facilitator



3rd

Connected,
personalized,
open access



4th

Lifelong
learning
driven by
autonomy &
purpose

Harry Anthony Patrinos

World Bank



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