

# Preface

## **What's New in This New Edition?**

This second edition of *Smarter Budgets, Smarter Schools* adds over a decade of new experiences and insights to the original. In the years since I wrote the first edition, I changed, and the world of K–12 changed too.

I have since worked with over 250 school districts in over thirty states; I have helped many improve equity, expand SEL services, balance tight budgets, and better serve historically underserved students. I have also learned many more ways to help kids and improve the lives of teachers at the same time. The second edition is both smarter and kinder. It shows the way to not just raise student achievement through the budget, but help raise students more prepared for democracy, society, and work as well.

*The second addition adds completely new chapters on:*

- Improving equity through the budget
- Funding extensive social, emotional, behavioral, and counseling services even on tight budgets
- Strategies for managing declining enrollment or quickly increasing enrollment

*This new edition also includes many new insights and strategies for:*

- Implementing academic return on investment
- Staffing with precision
- Cost-effective special education

This edition assumes no prior knowledge of the first, and readers who enjoyed the original will find much new in this edition.