



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**EDUCATION
COMMISSION**
OF THE STATES

RESEARCH

The four pillars of our work are Research, Report, Counsel, and Convene. The **RESEARCH** pillar is our **foundation** and encompasses our **legislative tracking** of state education policies, from early learning through workforce development.

State Education Policy Tracking

Tracking state education policy across all 50 states and the District of Columbia is the crux of what we do at Education Commission of the States. We summarize education legislation for easier understanding, allowing us to spot trends and provide state leaders with relevant context around pressing education issues. We have summaries of enacted and vetoed legislation, dating back to the early 1990s and spanning the entire education spectrum — from early learning through workforce development — on our website.

Our one-of-a-kind, interactive [State Education Policy Tracking](#) tool, launched in 2017, allows users to search *enacted* and *vetoed* legislation across more than **41 education issues** and **256 sub-issues**. Search results can be filtered by state and or issue and sub-issue, or by keywords found in the bill titles. In 2021, our staff **summarized more than 1,688 bills** for this resource. The State Education Policy Tracking tool received **more than 15,000 pageviews** in 2021. In addition, our [archive](#) contains summaries of enacted and vetoed legislation dating back to 1996.

In addition to this resource, we also create a [State Education Policy Watch List](#), which captures *pending*, *enacted* and *vetoed* bills pertaining to trending topics in 2021. (This list changes from year to year.) For this resource, we **tracked 4,636 bills** from introduction related to career and technical education, COVID-19, early learning, health, high school, K-12 finance, postsecondary affordability and finance, postsecondary financial aid, postsecondary workforce development, and teaching. The State Education Policy Watch List resource received **more than 8,000 pageviews** in 2021.

Tracking state legislation in this way informs many of the services and products we provide to state leaders across the country. Three of those most valued products are 50-State Comparisons, State Information Requests and Policy Snapshots.

50-State Comparisons

[These resources](#), often the most visited on our website, provide a comprehensive look at how all 50 states and the District of Columbia approach or address a specific education issue in law or statute. They allow policymakers to compare their states' laws against other states on topics such as teacher license reciprocity, open enrollment, statewide admissions, K-12 governance structures and many others.

Of note is the addition of the Early Care and Education Governance 50-State Comparison, which completes our governance resources from early learning through postsecondary.

In 2021, we updated nine **50-State Comparisons**:

- [Private School Choice](#)
- [ArtScan](#)
- [Developmental Education Policies](#)
- [School Discipline Policies](#)
- [Education and Workforce Development Connections](#)
- [K-12 and Special Education Funding](#)
- [Need- and Merit-Based Financial Aid](#)
- [States' School Accountability Systems](#)
- [Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems](#)

State Information Requests

One of the most unique and valued ways we assist state education leaders is by responding to their requests for information, typically within 48 hours, on pressing education needs or topics in their states

In 2021, our policy staff completed **476 personalized responses** to State Information Requests from education leaders and legislative staffers from across the country. These requests came from every state, plus the District of Columbia and Virgin Islands, and the top categories include:

- Assessments.
- Curricula.
- High school, including graduation requirements and dual enrollment.
- K-12 accountability.
- K-12 finance.
- K-12 governance.
- Postsecondary academic affairs.
- Student health and wellness.
- Teacher certification and licensure.
- Teacher quality.

Policy Snapshots

These reports capture recent state legislative activity on a given education policy issue and include examples of legislation — usually enacted, but sometimes failed or pending, if there are lessons to be drawn from those. They also outline the importance of the policy issue and why it is currently trending in states. Policy Snapshots pertain to a specified time period, generally the last legislative session, unless otherwise noted.

In 2021, we compiled 5 Policy Snapshots:

- [K-12 Funding Policy Responses to COVID-19](#)
- [Education Task Forces and Commissions](#)
- [The Changing Role of School Leaders](#)
- [Interrupted Instruction](#)
- [Secondary Career and Technical Education Activity in 2021](#)

REPORT

The four pillars of our work are Research, Report, Counsel, and Convene. The **REPORT** pillar builds on our research work by highlighting trends, identifying legislative examples, and providing important context for the education policy decisions leaders are making in their states.

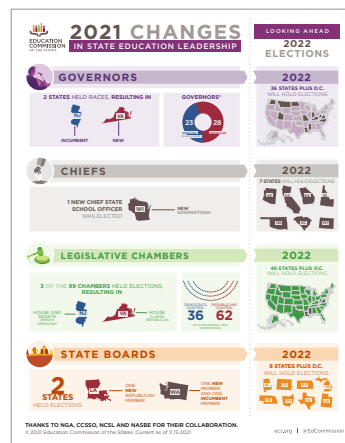
Governors' State of the State Addresses

Each year, we follow governors' State of the State Addresses and summarize any education-related policy proposals or mentions in [an online resource](#). Based on this tracking, we are able to identify top trends among governors' priorities, as outlined in their addresses, which we compile in [a report](#). We updated this resource in 2021, and it is searchable by *year and state* or *year and issue*. We also featured this analysis at the first session of our Partnering for Success webinar series, and it was one of the most-attended sessions.

Election Tracking

Each year, we closely track statewide elections, including education-related ballot measures, for the effects they might have on education policy decisions in each state —

particularly as it pertains to leadership positions. A new governor, for example, can have a cascading effect on state education policy if the governor is responsible for appointing state education chiefs or board members. We compile this information into [an interactive online resource](#).



Ed Note

We maintain our [Ed Note blog](#) for shorter, more responsive pieces that highlight current trends and innovative practices. We also feature authors from other organizations, in an effort to provide our readership with an array of expertise. In 2021, we published **66 posts**.

Reports

In 2021, we published **32 reports**, diving into the current legislative context on education issues spanning the spectrum from early childhood through workforce development.

Policy Outlines

Policy Outlines are one-pagers and foundational reference guides for a specific topic.

- [Media Literacy and Digital Citizenship](#)
- [Glossary of K-12 Education Funding](#)
- [Glossary of Student Mental Wellness Concepts](#)
- [Policy Approaches to Competency-Based Education](#)
- [Teacher License Reciprocity](#)
- [Instructional Time Policy 101](#)
- [Student Mental Health Services Ecosystem](#)
- [Early Care and Education Governance](#)
- [Barriers to Workforce Education and Training](#)
- [Workforce Development and Education Glossary](#)
- [Nondegree Credentials: Paths to the Workforce and Future Education](#)
- [Strategic Funding Alignment to Support Workforce Education Access](#)

Policy Briefs

Policy Briefs explore one facet of a larger education policy issue.

- [Leadership Training: A Cornerstone of P-3 STEM](#)
- [State Funding for Student Mental Health](#)
- [Teacher Training for Quality P-3 STEM Education](#)
- [State Approaches to Addressing Student Mental Health](#)
- [State Governance Models for Educating Youth in Juvenile Detention Facilities](#)
- [Perceptions of Postsecondary Education and Training in Rural Areas](#)
- [Enhancing Teacher Preparation Through Clinical Experience](#)
- [Policy Design Principles for Connecting Education to Work](#)

Policy Guides

Policy Guides provide a comprehensive look at an education policy issue.

- [State Policy Options to Promote K-12 Integration](#)
- [Addressing Inequities in Higher Education](#)
- [Policy Principles Supporting the 13th Year Concept](#)
- [A Policymaker's Guide to Virtual Schools](#)

Special Reports

These products vary and are typically a specialized format; they include reports that are done in collaboration with other organizations.

- [Governors' Top Education Priorities in 2021 State of the State Addresses](#)
- [ArtScan at a Glance](#)
- [A Systems Focus to Improve School Readiness](#)
- [Theatre Counts](#)
- [Reinvigorating K-12 Science Education](#)
- [Creating an Equity Framework That Supports Underserved Students](#)
- [Using Student Data to Address Inequities](#)
- [Promising Practices in Creating an Equity Framework](#)

COUNSEL

The four pillars of our work are Research, Report, Counsel, and Convene. The **COUNSEL** pillar encompasses our assistance to states, including information dissemination, testimony, technical assistance, presentations and other face-to-face engagements with our experts.

Our state relations team, together with members of our policy staff, provides personalized state support, including technical assistance, testimony and presentations. In 2021, we provided counsel services to **all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands** through both in-person and virtual engagements.

Virtual Information Requests

These engagements offer a one-on-one opportunity to connect with our policy team and discuss a specific education policy question; these opportunities are helpful for our Commissioners who need clarity or have additional questions.

Education Sessions

The Education Commission of the States policy team provide in-depth consultations on a particular education topic and generally include a formal presentation with opportunities for Q&A.

Testimony

The Education Commission of the States policy team is often requested to provide third-party expert testimony, based on its trusted research, at legislative committee hearings, taskforces and other venues.

Presentations

Similar to testimony, Education Commission of the States staff create and deliver tailored presentations that describe the current context or landscape — both within a state and nationally — of a specific policy issue.

Because the pandemic limited our ability to offer some of our traditional in-person services, we continued supporting the states through virtual information requests and education sessions.

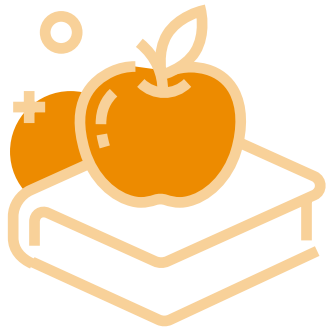
Technical Assistance

This is a service we provide Commissioners, upon request, and it generally involves tailored support on a specific policy issue, development or implementation. It often involves more than one meeting and includes follow-up support.

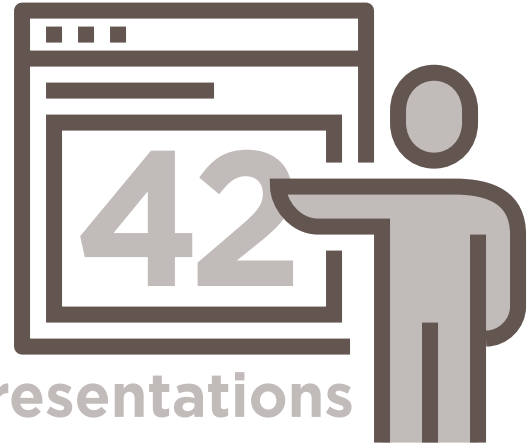
2021 State Engagements



**Virtual
Information
Requests**



**17
Education
Sessions**



Presentations



33

Technical Assistance



CONVENE

The four pillars of our work are Research, Report, Counsel, and Convene. The **CONVENE** pillar encompasses our events, large and small, that prioritize bringing together policymakers from across states to learn from each other.

While the COVID-19 pandemic prohibited us from meeting in person in 2021, the implications and challenges for state education leaders in the last year necessitated connection and collaboration — perhaps more than ever. The convene team worked tirelessly to adapt much of our convenings for the virtual environment, in addition to offering new opportunities for state policymakers to connect with each other and with our policy team.

Virtual Forum on Education Policy

This two-day virtual event included expert speakers, dynamic breakout sessions, live discussions and opportunities for Q&A, as state education leaders navigated the implications of the pandemic. We welcomed 1,363 registered attendees, representing all 50 states and two U.S. territories.

Partnering for Success



In collaboration with state leaders and our Silver-Level Partners, we launched this new webinar series in 2021 to provide greater connection opportunities for our

Commissioners on timely, pressing issues in their states. These one-hour sessions feature experts from across the country and spotlight innovative approaches in the states. In 2021, we covered the following topics:

- Education priorities in governors' State of the State Addresses.
- Equitable transitions between high school and college or work.
- Innovative state policy initiatives supporting academic growth.
- Funding student mental health support through Medicaid.
- Analytics in higher education.
- Credential transparency.

Other Convenings

In 2021, we convened several groups of education leaders from across the states to discuss and learn about specific education policies. These opportunities allow attendees to examine details and best practices, through sharing lessons and celebrations from each other's states.

A few highlights include:

Arts and Juvenile Justice Policy Briefing. (44 states represented/307 registrants)

Strong Start to Finish Learning Network Convening. (26 states represented/169 registrants)

Equitable Postsecondary Transitions in the COVID-19 Era. (9 states represented/18 registrants)

Four AEP Quarterly Partner Webinars. (192 registrants)

Data Privacy Webinar Series. (44 states represented/425 registrants)

FAFSA First: States Move to Update High School Graduation Requirements.
(30 states represented/104 registrants)

Rural Perceptions on Education Considerations for Policymakers.
(48 states represented/260 registrants)

Kindergarten Transitions Policy Webinar. (10 states represented/37 registrants)

GEPA Policy Academy. (36 states represented/65 registrants)

Executive Directors Policy Academy. (15 states represented/25 registrants)

AEP STEAM Policy Academy. (9 states represented/27 registrants)

Partners Legislative Policy Briefing. (23 states represented/56 registrants)

P-3 STEM Policy Academy. (10 states represented/28 registrants)

AEP Literacy Thinkers Meeting. (13 states represented/20 registrants)

Arts Education Partnership Annual Meeting. (50 states represented/898 registrants)

Legislative Education Staff Network Summer Series. (31 states represented/91 registrants)

Kindergarten Transitions Policy Webinar. (12 states represented/41 registrants)

P-3 State Policy Academy. (11 states represented/65 registrants)

Student Health and Wellness Thinkers Meeting. (9 states represented/25 registrants)

Teacher Licensure Collaborative. (24 states represented/101 attendees)

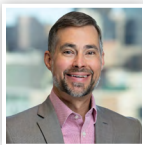
APPENDIX



- A | **Education Commission of the States Leadership Team**
- B | **Standing Committees**
- C | **Steering Committee and Commissioners**
- D | **Partners and Policy Support**
- E | **Budget and Financial Summary**
- F | **Best of 2021**

Appendix A

Education Commission of the States Leadership Team



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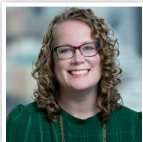
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Director, Policy

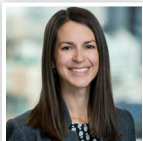
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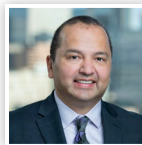
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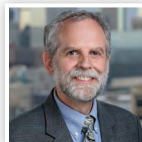
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Senior Director, Policy

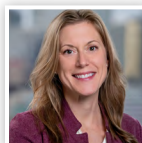
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Senior Director, Policy

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MANDY ZATYNSKI

Director, Communications

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Appendix B

2021 Standing Committees

Executive Committee

CHAIR



Kim Reynolds
Governor
Iowa



Molly Severn
Legislative Liaison
and Policy Advisor
Iowa



Allison Jones
Deputy Secretary of Policy and Planning
Office of Gov. Tom Wolf,
Pennsylvania

VICE CHAIR



Brittney Miller
Assembly Member
Nevada

TREASURER



Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education
Missouri

ECS PRESIDENT



Jeremy Anderson
President
Education Commission of the States

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR



Tom Wolf
Governor
Pennsylvania

MEMBERS



Katy Anthes
Commissioner of Education
Colorado



Stephanie Bell
Member, State Board of Education
Alabama



Peter Blake
Director, State Council of Higher
Education, Virginia



Ben Cannon
Executive Director, Higher Education
Coordinating Commission, Oregon



Wendy Horman
Representative
Idaho

Finance Committee

TREASURER and COMMITTEE CHAIR



Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education
Missouri

VICE CHAIR



Bob Behning
Representative
Indiana

MEMBERS



Jay Kahn
Senator
New Hampshire



Carey Wright
State Superintendent of Education
Mississippi



Aaron Thompson
President
Council of Postsecondary Education
Kentucky

National Forum Planning Committee

CHAIR



Brittney Miller
Assembly Member
Nevada

VICE CHAIR



Nancy Norman
Education Consultant
Alaska

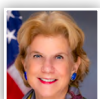
MEMBERS



W. Clayton Burch
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia



Doug Ducey
Governor
Arizona



Shelley Mayer
Senator
New York



Jim McNiece
Member
State Board of Education
Kansas



Don Schaible
Senator
North Dakota

Nominating Committee

CHAIR



Wendy Horman
Representative
Idaho

VICE CHAIR



Stephanie Bell
Member, State Board of Education
Alabama

MEMBERS



Carmen Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois



Sydnee Dickson
State Superintendent of Public
Instruction, Utah



Peter Blake
Director
State Council of Higher Education
Virginia



Charles Wiger
Senator
Minnesota

Appendix C

2021 Steering Committee and Commissioners

The Steering Committee is the primary policy-setting body of Education Commission of the States. Specifically, the Steering Committee adopts and approves statements and communications to implement, effectuate and share our work; considers policy recommendations from any person, committee or other body; discusses and debates education issues in order to provide major programmatic direction; recommends bylaw changes; and approves our strategic plan, annual budget and annual report.

Commissioners by state as of December 31, 2021. Steering Committee members are listed in **bold**.

ALABAMA

- **Stephanie Bell**, Alabama State Board of Education
- Barbara Cooper, Secretary, Department of Early Childhood Education
- Arthur Orr, Chair, Finance and Taxation Education Committee, State Senate
- Kay Ivey, Governor, State of Alabama
- Eric Mackey, State Superintendent, Department of Education
- Jim Purcell, Executive Director, Commission on Higher Education

ALASKA

- **Nancy Norman**, Education Consultant, Norman Consultant Services
- Deena Bishop, Superintendent of Schools, Anchorage School District
- Michael Johnson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
- Harriet Drummond, Chair, House Education Committee, Alaska State House of Representatives
- James Fields, Chair, Alaska Board of Education and Early Development
- Mike Dunleavy, Governor, State of Alaska
- Gary Stevens, Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee, Alaska State Senate

ARIZONA

- **Doug Ducey**, Governor, State of Arizona
- Michelle Udall, Chair, House Education Committee, Arizona House of Representatives
- Walter Blackman, State Representative, Arizona House of Representatives
- Janice Palmer, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Helios Education Foundation
- Rachel Yanof, Community Member, State of Arizona

ARKANSAS

- **Asa Hutchinson**, Governor, State of Arkansas
- Sarah Moore, Board member, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
- Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
- Maria Markham, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
- DeAnn Vaught, State Representative, Arkansas House of Representatives
- Johnny Key, Secretary of Education, Arkansas Department of Education
- Lance Eads, State Senator, Arkansas Senate

CALIFORNIA

- Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
- Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education
- Mia Bonta, State Representative, California General Assembly
- Estela Bensimon, Professor and Director, University of Southern California
- Linda Darling-Hammond, President and CEO, Learning Policy Institute

COLORADO

- **Katy Anthes**, Commissioner, Colorado Department of Education
- Amie Baca-Oehlert, President, Colorado Education Association
- Angie Paccione, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education
- Rachel Zenzinger, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Colorado Senate
- Tim Geitner, Representative, Colorado House of Representatives
- Jared Polis, Governor, State of Colorado
- Bill Jaeger, Vice President, Early Childhood and Policy Initiatives, Colorado Children's Campaign

CONNECTICUT

- Ned Lamont, Governor, State of Connecticut
- Robert Sanchez, Co-Chair, Joint Education Committee, Connecticut House of Representatives
- Charlene Russell-Tucker, Acting Commissioner of Education, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Hayley Zinn-Rowthorn, Owner, Educational Consultant, REALize Learning, LLC
- Kathleen McCarty, State Representative, 38th District, Connecticut House of Representatives
- Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chief Workforce Officer, Connecticut Office of Workforce Strategy
- Cheryl Dickinson, Professor Emeritus, Southern Connecticut State University
- Eric Berthel, Ranking Member, Senate Education Committee, Connecticut Senate

DELAWARE

- **Madeleine Bayard**, Senior Vice President, Rodel Charitable Foundation of Delaware
- John Gooden, President, M. Davis & Sons, Inc.
- Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent, Caesar Rodney School District
- Susan Bunting, Secretary of Education, State of Delaware
- Kimberly Williams, Chair, House Education Committee, Delaware House of Representatives
- Laura Sturgeon, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Delaware Senate
- John Carney, Governor, State of Delaware

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Christopher Bell, Chairman, Board of Trustees, University of the District of Columbia
- Ronald Mason, President, University of the District of Columbia
- Christina Grant, State Superintendent, Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- Zachary Parker, President of the Board, D.C. State Board of Education
- Phil Mendelson, Chairperson, Committee of the Whole, Council of the District of Columbia
- Christina Henderson, Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
- Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia

FLORIDA

- Randy Fine, Chair, Higher Education Appropriations Committee, Florida House of Representatives
- Ron DeSantis, Governor, State of Florida
- Chris Latvala, State Representative, Florida House of Representatives
- Joe Gruters, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Florida State Senate
- Kathryn Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System, Florida Department of Education
- Shevrin Jones, Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee, Florida State Senate

GEORGIA

- Brian Kemp, Governor, State of Georgia
- Richard Woods, State Superintendent of Schools, Georgia Department of Education
- William S. Schofield, Superintendent, Hall County School District
- Chuck Payne, Senator, Georgia State Senate
- Wes Cantrell, State Representative, Georgia House of Representatives

HAWAII

- **Michelle Kidani**, Vice President, Hawaii Senate
- Justin Woodson, Chair, House Education Committee, Hawaii House of Representatives
- Carmielita Minami, Faculty, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Alan Oshima, Board Member, State of Hawaii
- Joan Husted, Vice President, Education Institute of Hawaii

IDAHO

- **Wendy Horman**, Representative, Idaho House of Representatives
- Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Idaho Department of Education
- Rod Gramer, President and CEO, Idaho Business for Education
- Brad Little, Governor, State of Idaho
- Matt Freeman, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education
- Kurt Liebich, President, Idaho State Board of Education

ILLINOIS

- **Carmen I. Ayala**, State Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education
- JB Pritzker, Governor, State of Illinois
- Kimberly A. Lightford, Senate Majority Leader, Illinois State Senate
- Darren Reisberg, Chairman, Illinois State Board of Education

INDIANA

- **Bob Behning**, State Representative, Indiana House of Representatives
- Eric Holcomb, Governor, State of Indiana
- Jeff Raatz, Senator, Indiana State Senate
- Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

IOWA

- **Kim Reynolds**, Governor, State of Iowa
- Eric Giddens, State Senator, Iowa State Senate
- Thomas Moore, State Representative, Iowa House of Representatives
- Jeff Taylor, Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee, Iowa State Senate
- Cindy Winckler, State Representative, Iowa House of Representatives
- Ann Lebo, Director, Iowa Department of Education

KANSAS

- **Jim McNiece**, Member, Kansas State Board of Education
- Laura Kelly, Governor, State of Kansas
- Molly Baumgardner, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Kansas State Senate
- Cynthia Lane, Co-Chair, Governor's Council of Education
- Steve Huebert, Chair, House Education Committee, Kansas State House of Representatives
- Randy Watson, Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education

KENTUCKY

- **Aaron Thompson**, President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- Mike Wilson, State Senator, Kentucky Senate
- Andy Beshear, Governor, State of Kentucky
- Scottie Collier, Principal, Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council, Jefferson County Public Schools
- Lu Young, Board Member, Kentucky Board of Education
- Derrick Graham, State Representative, Kentucky House of Representatives
- Jason Glass, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

LOUISIANA

- **John Bel Edwards**, Governor, State of Louisiana
- Cade Brumley, State Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education
- Raymond Garofalo, Chair, House Committee on Education, Louisiana House of Representatives
- Cleo Fields, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Louisiana Senate
- Richard Hartley, Senior Policy Advisor, Louisiana Office of the Governor
- Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents
- Deborah Sternberg Roth, Chair, Young Entrepreneurs Academy of Baton Rouge

MAINE

- Rebecca Millett, State Representative, Maine State House of Representatives
- Janet Mills, Governor, State of Maine
- Matthea Daughtry, Co-Chair, Joint Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, Maine State Senate
- Duke Albanese, Senior Policy Advisor, Great Schools Partnership

MARYLAND

- **Bill Ferguson**, President of the Senate, Maryland General Assembly
- Larry Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland
- Eric Ebersole, State Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates
- Kathleen Hetherington, President, Howard Community College
- Greg Schuckman, Commissioner, Independent Consultant
- Jeff Richmond, Director of Enrollment, The George Washington University

MASSACHUSETTS

- Matthew Malone, Superintendent, Fall River Public Schools
- James Peyser, Secretary of Education, State of Massachusetts
- Paul Toner, Executive Director, Teach Plus Massachusetts
- Richard Freeland, President Emeritus, Northeastern University

MICHIGAN

- Gretchen Whitmer, Governor, State of Michigan
- Kim LaSata, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Universities and Colleges, Michigan State Senate
- Pamela Hornberger, Speaker Pro-Tempore, Michigan House of Representatives
- Casandra Ulbrich, President, Michigan State Board of Education
- Punita Thurman, Vice President, Program and Strategy, The Skillman Foundation

MINNESOTA

- **Charles Wiger**, Ranking Minority Member, Senate E-12 Finance and Policy Committee, Minnesota State Senate
- Dennis Olson, Commissioner, Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Tim Walz, Governor, State of Minnesota
- Roger Chamberlain, Assistant Majority Leader, Minnesota State Senate
- Lee-Ann Stephens, Educator, St. Louis Park School District
- Heather Mueller, Commissioner of Education, Minnesota Department of Education
- Jim Davnie, State Representative, Minnesota House of Representatives

MISSISSIPPI

- **Carey Wright**, State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education
- Alfred Rankins, Commissioner of Higher Education, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
- Richard Bennett, Chair, House Education Committee, Mississippi House of Representatives
- Rita Potts Parks, Chair, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee, Mississippi State Senate
- Dennis DeBar, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Mississippi State Senate
- Mac Huddleston, Chair, House Universities and Colleges Committee, Mississippi House of Representatives
- Tate Reeves, Governor, State of Mississippi

MISSOURI

- **Margie Vandeven**, Commissioner of Education, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- John Jungmann, Commissioner, Springfield Public Schools
- Frank Killian, Superintendent, Richland R-1 School District
- Michael Parson, Governor, State of Missouri
- Cindy O’Laughlin, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Missouri State Senate
- Dottie Bailey, Representative, Missouri State House of Representatives
- Robert Knodell, Deputy Chief of Staff, State of Missouri

MONTANA

- **Elsie Arntzen**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Montana Office of Public Instruction
- Daniel Salomon, Chair, Senate Education and Culture Resources Committee, Montana State Senate
- Brandon Ler, State Representative, Montana State Legislature
- Timothy Tharp, Pastor, Board Member, Montana Board of Education
- Greg Gianforte, Governor, State of Montana
- Allison Horne, Teacher, Warren Elementary School
- Craig Smith, Vice President for Institutional Development and Research, Fort Peck Community College

NEBRASKA

- **Matthew Blomstedt**, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education
- Pete Ricketts, Governor, State of Nebraska
- Lynne Walz, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
- Adam Morfeld, State Senator, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
- Rich Pahls, State Senator, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
- Pete Ricketts, Governor, State of Nebraska
- John Spatz, Executive Director, Nebraska Association of School Boards
- Mike Baumgartner, Executive Director, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

NEVADA

- **Brittney Miller**, Assembly Member, Nevada Assembly
- Steve Sisolak, Governor, State of Nevada
- Roberta Lange, State Senator, Nevada State Senate
- Jason Geddes, Chairman, Nevada System of Higher Education
- Marilyn Dondero Loop, Senator, Nevada State Senate
- Selena Torres, Assemblywoman, Nevada State Assembly
- Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **Jay Kahn**, Senator, New Hampshire Senate
- Chris Sununu, Governor, State of New Hampshire
- Elliot Gault, Education Policy Advisor, State of New Hampshire
- Michael Moffett, State Representative, New Hampshire State House of Representatives

NEW JERSEY

- **Shirley Turner**, Vice Chair, Education Committee, New Jersey Senate
- Clinton Calabrese, State Representative, New Jersey State Assembly
- Philip Murphy, Governor, State of New Jersey
- Susan Cole, President, Montclair State University
- Peter Renwick, Retired Principal, Westfield High School

NEW MEXICO

- **William Soules**, Chair, Senate Education Committee, New Mexico Senate
- Joseph Shepard, President, Western New Mexico University
- Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor, State of New Mexico
- Matt Pahl, Executive Director, New Mexico Coalition for Charter Schools
- Barbara Damron, Chief Government Relations Officer, University of New Mexico
- G. Andres Romero, Chair, House Education Committee, New Mexico House of Representatives

NEW YORK

- **Shelley Mayer**, Chair, Senate Education Committee, New York Senate
- Kathy Hochul, Governor, State of New York
- Betty Rosa, Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York, New York State Education Department
- Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges and Education Pipeline, The State University of New York System Administration

NORTH CAROLINA

- Hugh Blackwell, Chair, House Education Committee, North Carolina State House of Representatives
- Roy Cooper, Governor, State of North Carolina
- Deanna Ballard, Chair, Senate Education Committee, North Carolina State Senate

NORTH DAKOTA

- **Donald Schaible**, Chair, Senate Education Committee, North Dakota Senate
- Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota State Superintendent, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
- Mark Owens, Chair, House Education Committee, North Dakota State House of Representatives
- Travis Jordan, Superintendent, Beulah School District 27
- Mike Bitz, Superintendent, Mandan Public School District
- Doug Burgum, Governor, State of North Dakota
- Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, North Dakota University System

OHIO

- Don Jones, Majority Whip, Ohio State House of Representatives
- Laura Kohler, President, Ohio State Board of Education
- LeeAnne Cornyn, Director of Cabinet Affairs, State of Ohio
- Randy Gardner, Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education
- Mike DeWine, Governor, State of Ohio

OKLAHOMA

- **Marcie Mack**, Director, Oklahoma State Board of Career and Technical Education
- Joe Newhouse, State Senator, Oklahoma State Senate
- Kevin Stitt, Governor, State of Oklahoma
- Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma Department of Education
- Rhonda Baker, Chair, House Common Education Committee, Oklahoma State House of Representatives

OREGON

- **Ben Cannon**, Executive Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Colt Gill, Director, Oregon Department of Education
- Chuck Thomsen, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education, Oregon State Senate
- Suzanne Weber, State Representative, District 32, Oregon State House of Representatives
- Courtney Neron, State Representative, Oregon State House of Representatives
- Michael Dembrow, Chair, Senate Committee on Education, Oregon State Senate
- Lindsey Capps, Senior Education Policy Advisor, State of Oregon

PENNSYLVANIA

- **Tom Wolf**, Governor, State of Pennsylvania
- Scott Martin, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Pennsylvania State Senate
- David Volkman, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Lindsey Williams, Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee, Pennsylvania State Senate
- Russell Miller, Budget Analyst, Pennsylvania State Senate
- Stanley Saylor, Chair, House Appropriations Committee, Pennsylvania House of Representatives

RHODE ISLAND

- Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner of Education, Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Anna Cano Morales, Associate Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Rhode Island College
- Shannon Gilkey, Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
- Gregg Amore, Deputy Majority Leader, Rhode Island State House of Representatives
- Daniel McKee, Governor, State of Rhode Island
- Hanna Gallo, State Senator, Rhode Island State Senate
- Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Henry McMaster, Governor, South Carolina Office of the Governor
- Akil Ross, Affiliate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policies, University of South Carolina
- Thomas Wilson, Superintendent, Anderson School District Five
- Greg Hembree, Chairman, Senate Education Committee, South Carolina State House of Representatives
- Merita Allison, Chair, House Education and Public Works Committee, South Carolina State House of Representatives
- Melanie Barton, Senior Education Advisor, Office of the Governor

SOUTH DAKOTA

- **Tiffany Sanderson**, Secretary of Education, South Dakota Department of Education
- Kristi Noem, Governor, State of South Dakota
- Lana Greenfield, Chair, House Education Committee, South Dakota State House of Representatives
- Jim Bolin, Majority Whip, South Dakota State Senate
- Jarod Larson, Superintendent, Brandon Valley School District
- Jay Perry, Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning, South Dakota Board of Regents

TENNESSEE

- Bill Lee, Governor, State of Tennessee
- Mark White, Chair, Education Administration Committee, Tennessee State House of Representatives
- Brian Kelsey, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Tennessee State Senate
- Claude Pressnell, President, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association
- Tammy Grissom, Executive Director, Tennessee School Boards Association

TEXAS

- Larry Taylor, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Texas State Senate
- Greg Abbott, Governor, State of Texas
- Mike Morath, Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency
- Morgan Meyer, Representative, Texas State House of Representatives
- Keven Ellis, Chair, Texas State Board of Education
- Dan Huberty, State Representative, District 127, Texas State House of Representatives
- Harrison Keller, Commissioner of Higher Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

UTAH

- **Sydnee Dickson**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Utah State Board of Education
- Val Peterson, Chair, House Education Committee, Utah State House of Representatives
- Spencer Cox, Governor, State of Utah
- Dave Woolstenhulme, Commissioner of Higher Education, Utah System of Higher Education
- Ann Millner, Assistant Majority Whip, Utah State Senate
- Tracy Gruber, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Human Services, State of Utah

VERMONT

- Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary, Vermont Agency of Education
- Daniel French, Secretary of Education, Vermont Agency of Education
- Philip Baruth, State Senator, Vermont State Senate
- Kathryn Webb, Chair, House Education Committee, Vermont State House of Representatives

VIRGINIA

- **Peter Blake**, Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
- James Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education
- John Gordon, Superintendent, Suffolk Public Schools
- Fran Bradford, Deputy Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia
- Stephen Newman, State Senate President Pro Tempore, Virginia State Senate
- Roslyn Tyler, Chair, House Education Committee, Virginia State House of Delegates
- Ralph Northam, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA

- **Clayton Burch**, State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education
- James Justice, Governor, State of West Virginia
- Sarah Tucker, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
- Sarah Stewart, Executive Director, Policy and Government Relations, West Virginia Department of Education
- Robert Plymale, Senator, West Virginia State Senate
- William Hosaflook, Superintendent, Wood County Schools
- Paul Espinosa, Majority Whip, West Virginia Legislature

WISCONSIN

- **Jillian Balow**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wyoming Department of Education
- Amy Traynor, Lead Teacher, Anthony Acres School
- Zach Madden, Legislative Affairs Director, State of Wisconsin
- Anju Reejhsinghani, Assistant Vice Provost for Strategic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Tony Evers, Governor, State of Wisconsin
- Jeremy Thiesfeldt, Chair, Assembly Education Committee, Wisconsin State Legislature

WYOMING

- Mark Gordon, Governor, State of Wyoming
- Jeff Wasserburger, State Senator, Wyoming State Senate
- Rachel Rubino, Case Manager, Albany County School District
- Walt Tribbley, President, Northern Wyoming Community College District
- Kathy Vetter, Teacher, Wyoming Education Association

Appendix D

2021 Partners and Policy Support

2021 Education Commission of the States Partners

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



2021 Education Commission of the States Policy Support

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Ascendium Education Group
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
- ECMC Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- Hewlett Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Strada Education Network
- U.S. Department of Education
- The Wallace Foundation

Appendix E

Budget and Financial Summary

Statement of financial position for year ending Dec. 31, 2021.

Income Statement

REVENUES

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| GRANTS/CONTRACTS | 8,816,553 |
| SPONSORSHIP FUNDING/REGISTRATION | 463,750 |
| STATE FEES | 3,300,434 |
| GAINS/LOSS - INVESTMENTS | 661,479 |
| OTHER | 10,920 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 13,253,136 |

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| SALARIES AND BENEFITS | 6,880,888 |
| OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES | 7,502,103 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 14,382,991 |

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | 12,194,257 |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | 209,480 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 12,403,737 |

Liabilities

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | 177,058 |
| ACCRUALS | 290,950 |
| DEFERRED RENT | 131,408 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$ 599,416 |

Net Assets

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS | 209,480 |
| OPERATING RESERVE | 1,650,217 |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | 4,618,571 |
| UNDESIGNATED | 5,326,053 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$ 11,804,321 |

Audited financial statements are available upon request.



TOP Policy Reports



- [State Funding for Student Mental Health](#)
- [Governors' Top Education Priorities in 2021 State of the State Addresses](#)
- [Broadband Access and the Digital Divides](#)
- [Early Care and Education Governance](#)
- [State Approaches to Addressing Student Mental Health](#)

TOP 50-State Comparisons



- [50-State Comparison: Teacher License Reciprocity](#)
- [50-State Comparison: High School Graduation Requirements](#)
- [50-State Comparison: State K-3 Policies](#)
- [50-State Comparison: States' School Accountability Systems](#)
- [50-State Comparison: K-12 and Special Education Funding](#)

TOP Blog Posts



- [What's Required to Become a CTE Teacher?](#)
- [Just Exactly What Is Civics Education?](#)
- [Adjusting to a New 'Normal' in Education](#)
- [The 6 Education Policy Topics You'll See in 2020](#)
- [The Importance of Providing Native American Education for All Students](#)

TOP Web Resource

[State Education
Policy Tracking](#)





**EDUCATION
COMMISSION
OF THE STATES**

Education Commission of the States
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