EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

WHO WE ARE

The Education Commission of the States was created by states, for states, in 1965. We track state policy trends, translate academic research, provide unbiased advice and create opportunities for state leaders to learn from one another.

WHAT SETS US APART

1. We don't take sides. We are not an advocacy organization.

2. We are non-partisan. By law, our chair alternates between Democratic and Republican governors every two years. We provide a platform for meaningful dialogue wherever you stand.

3. We cover the P-20 spectrum. We work with policymakers, researchers and practitioners at all levels of education, from pre-K to postsecondary and beyond.

4. We cross silos in state government. ECS is the only state-focused national organization to bring together governors, state legislators, chief state school officers, higher education leaders and others.

OUR FUNDING

ECS receives a majority of our funding from the states and territories we serve.

OUR LEADERSHIP

ECS is guided by 371 commissioners – seven from each member state and territory – under the leadership of our officers.

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval
ECS Chair

Montana Governor Steve Bullock
ECS Chair-elect

Hawaii Representative Roy Takumi
ECS Vice Chair

Secretary Melody Schopp
South Dakota Department of Education
ECS Treasurer
EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

WHAT WE DO

★ State Education Policy Tracking: Learn how other states are tackling issues with our database of education laws from 1994 to present, searchable by state, topic and year.

★ 50-State Databases: Compare your state’s laws to other states with specialized databases focusing on issues such as kindergarten, remedial education and dual enrollment.

★ Research Summaries: Base your decisions on the latest academic research, translated in reader-friendly language and searchable by the questions policymakers are asking.

★ Customized Assistance: We review and consult on proposed legislation, provide unbiased advice on policy plans and testify at legislative hearings as third-party experts.

SAMPLING OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

Blueprint for College Readiness: A 50-state Policy Analysis – This report was designed by state leaders to serve as a framework to help K12 and higher education leaders understand the key policies promoting college readiness and the extent to which states are pursuing them.

Trends in Financial Aid: Actions from the 2013 and 2014 Legislative Sessions – In this brief, ECS identified several trends state financial aid programs, including changes to need- and merit-based programs and linking financial aid programs to workforce demands.

Early Learning Primer: Initiatives from Preschool to Third Grade – This report serves as a reference guide for policymakers and their staffs on the most commonly requested topics from preschool to third grade. It is organized around the two most common questions asked of ECS: What are effective strategies to support children on their path to third-grade academic success and what are the foundations of any effective P-3 approach?

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 ECS National Forum on Education Policy
June 29 – July 1, 2015 in Denver, Colorado

Help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of our founding at the 2015 National Forum! Join over 500 policymakers and education leaders from all 50 states and U.S. territories to tackle issues such as leveling the playing field for our students, academic standards including the Common Core State Standards, teacher preparation and evaluation, investments in early learning, college readiness and more.

INFORMATION HOTLINE

Have a question about an education issue or want further information about a report or database on our website?
Call our Information Clearinghouse hotline. We respond to your requests within 24 hours.
You can contact us at 303-299-3675 or ecs@ecs.org.