



*Equipping Education Leaders,  
Advancing Ideas*

*The mission of the Education Commission of the States is to help states develop effective policy and practice for public education by providing data, research, analysis and leadership; and by facilitating collaboration, the exchange of ideas among the states and long-range strategic thinking.*

## WHO WE ARE

Education Commission of the States (ECS) is the only nationwide, nonpartisan organization that brings together key leaders – governors, legislators, chief state school officers, higher education officials, business leaders and others – to work side by side to improve education.

ECS was established in 1965, by state leaders for state leaders. For more than 40 years, ECS has been helping policymakers improve public education by facilitating the exchange of information and ideas across states. A nonprofit interstate compact with 350 commissioners from its member states, ECS is the leading nonpartisan source of information, ideas and leadership on education policy. It tracks trends, translates research, provides advice and creates opportunities for state leaders to learn from one another.

## WHY WE EXIST

The ultimate purpose of ECS is to help states improve student learning and achievement. Today, more than ever, it is vital for states to learn from and build on the experience of one another.

## WHAT WE DO

### **Conduct Policy Research & Analysis**

Staff specialists and senior staff help state leaders understand and develop policy for pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education in pivotal areas such as accountability, early learning, finance, governance, leadership, citizenship and teaching quality.

### **Convene State, Regional & National Policy Conferences**

Through seminars, workshops and conferences – including The National Forum on Education Policy – ECS brings together policymakers and educators to share ideas and learn from one another, as well as experts from across the country.

## **“Connect the Dots” Across the Policy Landscape**

Education doesn't operate in a vacuum. ECS is prepared to work with state leaders in aligning education policy across all levels and with any state sectors that have an impact.

## **Promote Networks & Partnerships**

By developing a number of networks and partnerships involving legislators, legislative aides, governor's aides and other key stakeholders, ECS promotes the sharing of information, ideas and resources at the state and national levels.

## **Provide Information & News**

ECS maintains the nation's most extensive Web site devoted to education policy. It features comprehensive information on a growing number of early learning, K-12 and postsecondary issues, ranging from broad overviews to in-depth policy analyses. Policymakers can access the comprehensive collection of material through online and print publications as well as through customized, quick-turnaround searches by ECS policy staff.

## **Customize Technical Assistance**

ECS tailors its services to individual states' needs, interests and resources to help leaders make the decisions right for their state. Services include policy audits, legislative testimony, research, meetings, consultation and advice.

## **ECS 2011–13 Chair**

Governor John Hickenlooper, Colorado

## **ECS President**

Roger Sampson



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