The Education Commission of the States (ECS) announces the release of the Education Leadership Policy Toolkit, a comprehensive online toolkit that provides information on effective education leadership policies and practices.

The toolkit was created through the generous support of MetLife Foundation and is designed to provide information to state policymakers and school district leaders – as well as principals and teachers – with the goal of increasing leadership capacity in schools, districts and states. Information on the site was gathered and synthesized from a series of case studies conducted around the nation in districts with strong student learning, often in challenging contexts.

The Education Leadership Policy Toolkit organizes information into eight key categories that represent the common leadership factors in all the studied districts: Vision, Governance, Relationships, Culture, Human Development, Instruction, Evaluation and Resource Allocation. Within each category, users can find example policies and practices, recommendations and key elements of effective leadership at three different levels: state, district and school. Additional resources for each leadership factor are provided as well.

Additionally, the site features case studies on the challenges and successes of three different districts: Boston, Massachusetts; National City, California; and Memphis, Tennessee. Each case study features the perspective from a teacher, a principal and the district superintendent about how change was implemented, and what conditions and beliefs are essential for effective and successful leadership. The toolkit provides online audio clips of interviews with a teacher, principal and superintendent from each district.

The Education Leadership Policy Toolkit is now available on the ECS Web site at: http://www.ecs.org/metlifetoolkit/index-home.html.

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The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is a nationwide nonprofit organization created by the states, territories and the U.S. Congress that helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. A nonpartisan organization, ECS was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado.

*Helping State Leaders Shape Education Policy*