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NEWS

ECS Launches One-of-a-kind, Nationwide P-16/P-20 Council Database to Boost Efforts by State Policymakers

Allows States to Compare Council Components, Key Issues Being Tackled and Any Resulting Policy Changes

DENVER, CO -- Today the Education Commission of the States (ECS) goes live with a unique P-16/P-20 Council database to assist state policymakers in the creation or maintenance of seamless, pre-kindergarten-through-college systems for learning within each state.

“The alignment of early learning, K-12 and postsecondary systems no longer is an ‘option’ or a ‘nice’ idea,” said ECS Senior Policy Analyst Jennifer Dounay, manager of the organization’s High School Policy Center. “It is an essential path for states to follow if they are to meet the economic, demographic and education challenges of the 21st century. Coordinating structures such as P-16 or P-20 councils can play a strong role in this alignment.”

Dounay continued, “Building upon the right agenda, with the right actors in the room and supported by adequate funding to communicate and move these efforts forward, P-16 and P-20 councils have the tools in the toolbox to build the seamless education systems America needs.”

The new database (www.ecs.org/P-20) is highlighted in today’s Diplomas Count, a special issue of Education Week, along with commentary by Dounay discussing the important design elements that ensure that councils maintain momentum and effect meaningful policy change. The database provides a 50-state perspective that allows users to compare key council components, issues councils are addressing and any resulting policy changes. Additionally, the database shows whether states have established performance goals.

“The P-16 and P-20 concept has the capacity to revolutionize the way we deliver educational opportunities for the very young to those entering the workforce,” said Roger Sampson, ECS President. The councils work to provide a clear path for students to move through the education system and allow for the ability to maximize resources without duplication.”

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The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education. ECS helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. A nonprofit organization, ECS (www.ecs.org) was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado

Equipping Education Leaders, Advancing Ideas