



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.

WHAT WE DO

News and information

Policymakers interested in particular education topics generally can find what they need on the ECS Web site (www.ecs.org) or can get more detailed information from the ECS Information Clearinghouse. For further access to timely education policy news, ECS has two flagship electronic publications: *e-Clips*, a daily roundup of the nation's top education news and *e-Connection*, a weekly bulletin highlighting state policy trends, new reports, upcoming meetings and events, useful Web sites and ECS news. ECS also publishes *Citizenship Matters*, which examines efforts to improve citizenship education in our nation's schools.

Policy research and analysis

ECS keeps policymakers on the leading edge of what's happening in the states by gathering, analyzing and disseminating information about current and emerging issues, trends and innovations in state education policy. Staff directors, policy analysts and researchers work in conjunction with ECS constituents and education policymakers on today's most critical education issues.

Customized technical assistance

ECS tailors its services to individual states' needs, interests and resources to help policymakers make the right decisions for their state. Policy audits, legislative testimony, meetings, research and consultation and advice are geared to specific issues and concerns; they are not "one size fits all."

State, regional and national policy conferences

ECS' state, regional and national seminars, workshops and conferences provide policymakers and educators with opportunities to share ideas and learn from one another, as well as from experts from across the country. Each year, the National Forum on Education Policy brings together policymakers and practitioners from all levels and all roles in education to discuss and debate the day's hottest education topics. Attendees leave with strategies and best practice information useful for improving their state's efforts.

Publications

In addition to operating an extensive Web site, ECS releases numerous print publications each year. The current list of studies, reports and policymaker guides includes topics ranging from accountability to vouchers. ECS also publishes a bimonthly report, *The Progress of Education Reform*, that provides an in-depth look at recent research on topics of importance to policymakers.

Networks and partnerships

ECS supports and participates in various networks for legislators, legislative aides, governors' education policy advisors and others to promote the sharing of information, ideas and resources at the state and national levels. ECS also is working on a number of initiatives in partnership with other organizations.

OUR PRODUCTS



e-Clips: a daily summary of and links to education articles, reports, studies and policies.



e-Connections: a weekly report of what other states are doing, good reads, names in the news, and other helpful Web sites.



Citizenship Matters: This bimonthly newsletter focuses on ECS' work in improving citizenship education in our nation's schools.

Progress of Education Reform:

addresses the hottest education issues, provides information in a concise and easy-to-read format based on summaries of the most recent studies and reports.



StateNotes and Policy Briefs:

ECS regularly issues useful compilations, summaries and/or comparisons of state policies — enacted or pending — on a wide variety of education topics.

DATABASES

50-State Databases

High School Related:

- Adolescent Literacy
- Advanced Placement
- Career & Technical Education
- College-Ready Standards
- Dual Enrollment
- Early/Middle College High Schools
- Exit Exams
- Graduation Rates
- High School/College Alignment
- High School-Level Accountability
- High School-Level Assessment
- Highlights of Local Initiatives
- International Baccalaureate
- P-16/P-20 Councils
- Postsecondary Feedback Systems
- Special Populations in High School Assessments
- State Data Systems
- State Initiatives to Improve High Schools
- STEM
- Student Accountability
- Student Support & Remediation
- Virtual High Schools

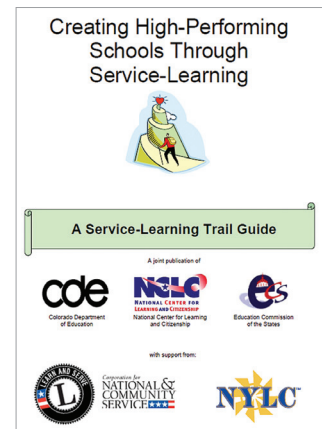
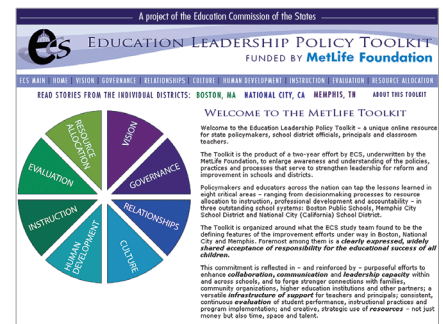
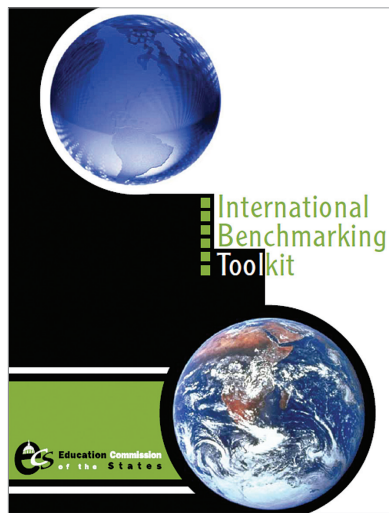
Other Policy Databases:

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- Artscan (Arts Education)
- Charter Schools
- School Choice
- Citizenship Education (NCLC)
- Highly Qualified Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- K-12 Governance Structures
- Leadership Policy
- Reading/Literacy
- NCLB Reauthorization
- Diversified Teacher Compensation Programs
- Teacher Recruitment & Retention
- Special Education Teacher Certification & Licensure
- Teacher Certification & Licensure
- Teacher Professional Development State Policy
- Postsecondary Education Governance Structures
- Teacher Preparation State Policy

TOOLKITS

Education Toolkits:

- Service-Learning Trail Guide
- School and District Leadership Toolkit
- International Benchmarking Toolkit



OUR SERVICES

ECS provides ongoing, daily staff work that results in new and updated information on virtually all education policy topics for immediate use in states to help forward their education agendas.

States have immediate access, by phone, e-mail or in-person, to ECS staff expertise, data and experience in the areas of: School Finance, Workforce Development, Postsecondary Education, High School Reform, P-16/P-20 Councils, Education Policy, Service Learning and Citizenship, Teaching Quality and Leadership, Early Childhood Education, International Benchmarking, ECS Information Clearinghouse and databases, etc.

ECS staff specialists 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.

ECS convenes state, regional & national policy conferences. Through these 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.

ECS maintains the nation's most extensive Web site devoted to education policy. It features comprehensive packages of 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.

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

ECS has an established communication system with high-level education policymakers from all states and U.S. Territories.

ECS staff members provide on-site training to state policymakers, legislators and their staffs, state boards of education, etc. on a variety of educational topics pertinent to states' education agendas.

ECS UNITS

ECS Information Clearinghouse: The Information Clearinghouse gathers, analyzes, disseminates and serves as a repository of information on a wide range of education topics, from a variety of sources: state legislation, research studies, reports, surveys, journals and news articles. ECS provides access to this extensive collection of material through its Web site, print publications and customized, quick-turnaround searches by Clearinghouse staff.

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Through the following policy institutes, ECS identifies, studies and provides information about education trends and issues that are of greatest concern and interest to its constituents.

Early Learning: The ECS Early Learning Program helps state leaders shape early care and education policy to build systems of support for children from birth to age 8. The early learning program identifies critical and emerging issues in early care and education, identifies policy opportunities, and translates research and practice into policy-focused analyses and recommendations.

*Contact: Mimi Howard, Director
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High School Policy: The ECS high school staff strives to keep policymakers on the leading edge of what's happening with state high school systems by gathering, analyzing and disseminating information about current and emerging issues, trends and innovations in state educational high school policy and system designs.

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National Center on Learning and Citizenship (NCLC): NCLC aims to increase support for service learning and citizenship education by providing state and district education leaders with policy options; tracking current research and quality practices; creating and testing instruments to assess student citizenship competencies that align with state policies and inform state policies on citizenship education; and creating agendas for disaster preparedness and global citizenship, including

identifying major players, state policies, quality practices and gaps in these efforts that ECS should fill.

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Postsecondary Education and Workforce

Development: This institute deals with all issues related to postsecondary education, including community colleges, workforce development, transitions to college and P-20 education. The institute aims to engage ECS commissioners in identifying the emerging issues that affect higher education and the economic competitiveness of their states, and collaborate with the other ECS policy institutes to maximize the level of service provided to our commissioners.

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School Improvement: The School Improvement Institute covers a broad range of pre-K-12 issues including accountability, early learning, finance, high schools, low-performing schools and charter schools/vouchers. The institute seeks to provide state and district education leaders with policy options, current research and quality practices that encourage the integration of school improvement policy issues into seamless school improvement strategies and supportive state policies, and develop partnerships with other national organizations to increase our capacity.

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Teaching Quality and Leadership: This institute addresses all aspects of teaching quality as well as the issues of leadership and governance. The institute seeks to provide state policymakers and education leaders with information of value, relevance and utility to advance the quality of teaching and education leadership through the exploration, analysis and dissemination of exemplary research, model policy and innovative practice.

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