**State Standard-setting Processes** – With concerns about new academic standards being prevalent across the country, this new ECS brief describes the processes eight states use to establish, review and validate their academic standards.

**State Civic Education Policy Framework** – This report is intended to guide state policymakers as they address the complexities of preparing students for college, career and civic life.

**50 Ways to Test** – This brief provides an overview of the two testing consortia and federal testing requirements. The report also includes a comprehensive table with a breakdown of the state summative assessments being administered in grades 3-12 in all 50 states during 2014-15.

**How does Education in My State Compare? What every governor or other elected official needs to know** – This brief serves as a quick reference guide for elected officials to compare key education policies and data in their states to the rest of the nation.

**Spelling it Out – Policies aimed at ensuring early reading success** – This brief looks at third grade reading policies in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and will assist education policymakers and stakeholders as they look to continually improve early reading success for all students.

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**COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT**

Daryl Beall  
Senator, Iowa Senate  
ECS Commissioner: 2005 - present  
ECS Steering Committee member: 2006 - present

**1) Why did you become interested in education issues?**  
The Education Committee was my first choice of committee assignments when I was elected to the Iowa Senate 12 years ago, and I’ve served on the committee ever since. I’m a product of and a strong supporter of our community colleges, not only in terms of education, but also for the economic development that stems from providing a skilled workforce for Iowa’s employers. I am a former classroom teacher and school board member; it’s in my gene pool. My mother and brother were teachers and two of my three children are teachers.

**2) What ECS resources do you use the most?**  
The ECS resources I’ve utilized most are the people. Kathy Christie, in particular, has always been forthcoming with data and information, and even herself. She visited the Iowa Capitol at my request to address some issues the Education Committee was exploring: reading proficiency and retention, early childhood education and the Common Core State Standards.

**3) What is the top education issue you are working on right now?**  
In November I was defeated at the polls for reelection largely due to the 2010 census and subsequent reapportionment of my district boundaries. This question is very appropriate as I explore the next chapter in my life. It most assuredly is not retirement. I’ve chaired two committees, Veterans Affairs and International Relations, so perhaps some sort of advocacy is in my future. I would like to combine my passion for and experience with citizen diplomacy and education, perhaps by recruiting international students.

**4) What do you remember most about your K-12 years or college years?**  
My high school was very small. I was 12th out of a class of 24, so ranked in the top half of my class. However, a student dropped out of school in April, so I graduated 12th out of 23 - in the bottom half of my class! I am an Iowa farm boy and volunteered for the Peace Corps when I was 20. I was training at Montana State University to operate a hog breeding operation in Ecuador. We didn’t have Spanish professors, but rather young native speakers who taught us conversational Spanish, including the street language. I failed my
Did you know?

ECS provides a range of resources and services that can save you time, effort and money. As leadership is changing in your state post-election, call on us as you gear up for the 2015 legislative session.

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- State education policy tracking. We track how states are tackling issues with our unique database of more than 40,000 education laws from 1994 to present, searchable by state, topic and year.

- Research summaries. We help you base your decisions on the latest academic research, which we translate into reader-friendly language.

Upcoming Meetings

ECS National Forum on Education Policy 50th Anniversary Celebration!

June 29 to July 1, 2015 ~ Denver, Colorado

News & Announcements

The 2014 Winter Commissioners' Meeting in Las Vegas was a great success, with more than 125 ECS commissioners and education leaders from across the country in attendance. Sessions covered topics such as the role of partnerships in implementing academic standards, the effect of social media on the Common Core discussion and actions to boost college and career readiness. The presentations from the meeting can be found on the ECS website.

The Steering Committee meeting was conducted in a new way this year. As ECS approaches the 50th anniversary of its founding next year, we invited two facilitators from the U.S. Education Delivery Institute to engage committee members in a deeper conversation about where ECS should go in the next 50 years. Committee members gave thoughtful input that will be used immediately to strengthen ECS’s core services and align resources with what policymakers find most valuable.

5) What do you do when you aren’t working on education issues?

I don’t do “guy stuff.” I don’t hunt or fish, or play golf, tennis or poker. I’ve always worked. I enjoy photography and love to travel and get to know people who look different than the reflection in my own mirror. My wife and I have 11 grandchildren and I love doing stuff with them. Of my various titles, including senator and commissioner, grandpa is my favorite.