

Data Quality Campaign Honored by Education Commission of the States for Transforming How States Use Education Data

For Immediate Release

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 9, 2026— Education Commission of the States (ECS) today announced the Data Quality Campaign (DQC) as the recipient of the 2026 Corporate Award, recognizing organizations whose work has made a significant and lasting contribution to improving education policy and practice across the nation.

The award will be presented during the 2026 ECS National Forum on Education Policy in Washington, D.C.

For more than two decades, DQC has served as a national, nonpartisan leader in advancing the effective, responsible and equitable use of education data to support student success. Since its founding in 2005, DQC has worked alongside states to strengthen statewide longitudinal data systems, improve access to actionable information and help policymakers, educators and communities use data to make informed decisions that improve outcomes for students.

"Data Quality Campaign has helped transform how states think about and use education data in service of students," **said José Muñoz, president of Education Commission of the States.** "For 20 years, DQC has been a trusted partner to states and national organizations alike, helping leaders move beyond systems and silos to ensure data works for people. Their work has strengthened education and workforce policy across the country and empowered state leaders to make more informed decisions that support learners at every stage."

DQC's partnership with ECS dates back to the organization's founding, when ECS joined 13 other national organizations as a founding and managing partner of the initiative. Over the years, the organizations have collaborated on numerous efforts to strengthen state data systems, support cross-state learning and elevate promising practices in education and workforce data policy.

"Education and workforce data can and should help states better understand the experiences and needs of students and create opportunities for success," said **Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger, DQC President and CEO.** "We are deeply honored to



receive the ECS Corporate Award and grateful for the longstanding partnership between our organizations. Together, we have worked to ensure that data is accessible, actionable and used to improve outcomes for learners across the country."

Throughout its history, DQC has worked in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, helping state leaders build trust in data systems, strengthen privacy protections and connect education and workforce information to better support learners through critical transitions.

The ECS Corporate Award recognizes organizations that support improvement in education aligned with ECS priorities, advance promising practices to improve student outcomes and garner broad support within the states and communities they serve. Past recipients include Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation, Crayola and the Kresge Foundation.

About Education Commission of the States

Education Commission of the States is a trusted source for comprehensive knowledge and resources on hundreds of education policy issues from early learning through postsecondary education. The organization partners with state leaders by providing unbiased information, research, customized support and opportunities for collaboration.

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