

ANNUAL REPORT

What's Inside?

A Message From Matt Padilla, Interim President | 3

Who We Are | 4

What We Do | 5

Our Work at a Glance | 6

2022 Highlights:

Enhancing Engagement Strategies | 7

Connecting State Policymakers From Across the Country | 8

Supporting States With Personalized Services | 10

Behind the Scenes With Your Education Policy Team | 12

Meet Our 2022 Executive Committee | 13

Meet Our Partners and Funders | 14

Budget and Financial Summary | 16

A Message From
Matt Padilla,
Interim President

2022 was a year of reaffirming our commitment to state leaders across the country who are unflinching in their commitment to building an outstanding educational system for the students in their state.

We applied concentrated effort to the timeliness of our published materials and resources to meet state education leaders' most pressing needs. We showed up for them both virtually and in person with relevant and actionable information that aided them in their decision-making. And we resumed in-person events, with a commitment to the well-being of our attendees and their ability to forge new, significant connections with their peers.

For over 50 years, we have upheld our pledge to be an extension of any state policymaker's education policy team. In an increasingly divisive landscape, we have sought out opportunities to support all 50 states regardless of ideology or approach to policymaking.

In 2022, we brought together 600 of the country's brightest leaders and practitioners in the education policy space for our National Forum on Education Policy. We hosted Policy Academies that provided space for confidential and collaborative work between states, and Thinkers Meetings that distilled best practices and tangible examples for

states. We held virtual convenings and presentations full of scholarly research, provided expert testimonies to states and published relevant resources, such as those on ESSER funding, which brought well-timed insight and inspiration to states.

Internally, we redefined our strategic vision to cement our role as one of the most trusted sources of education policy insight and connections for any state leader. We expanded both the number and the type of connections that we prioritize in our outreach to policymakers. Additionally, we redefined our values as a team, honing in on our commitment to engagement, collaboration and service, and further explored what these look like not only inside our workspaces but also within our interactions and services to state leaders.

We thrive in connectedness — connecting state education leaders to the resources they need to make informed decisions and connecting them with peers and experts who can support them in their efforts. 2022 embodied connectedness — to our mission, to state leaders and to each other.

Your Trusted Education Policy Team

Since 1965, we've been committed to supporting states by providing personalized services and creating connection opportunities for education leaders to learn from one another. Our team works across the education spectrum by providing nonpartisan insight on issues from early care to workforce development. Our resources and services equip policymakers with the insight and experience needed to create effective education policy.

Initiatives

Education Commission of the States proudly administers the Arts Education Partnership and Strong Start to Finish — organizations that work to advance arts education and developmental education, respectively. While each organization has its own mission, we collaborate with them to develop nonpartisan resources and services.



Arts Education Partnership is a national network of more than 200 organizations dedicated to advancing arts education. AEP is the nation's hub for arts and education leaders, building their leadership capacity to support students, educators and learning environments. Through research, reports, convenings and counsel, leaders gain knowledge and insights to ensure that all learners receive an excellent arts education.



Strong Start to Finish is a network of policy and research partners, institution and systems leaders and foundations advancing system reforms in developmental education. SStF works to reform development education in higher education systems by scaling policies and practices that remove barriers to success and ensure Black, Brown, Asian American and Indigenous students; students with low incomes; and returning adults are supported to succeed in their first year of college.

Personalized Services to States

Connecting state education leaders across the nation is at the heart of our mission. We organize annual events to share education policy expertise and elevate connection opportunities for state policymakers to learn from one another.

Our supports and services further equip state education leaders in their decision-making on policy issues, connect them with states working on similar goals and aid them in movement on legislation. We provide personalized support because we understand that no two states approach policy the same.

EVENTS | Bringing state policymakers together is our specialty. Every year, we offer a range of events from small-group strategy sessions to large events with over 500 attendees.

TESTIMONY TO STATE COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS | Our policy experts provide timely and nonpartisan information when states need evidence-based research and a trusted understanding of policy trends and solutions.

STATE INFORMATION REQUESTS | Our staff provide tailored responses to questions from state policymakers and their staffers during the policymaking process.

Pertinent Education Policy Resources

We publish a range of education policy resources that address education issues from early care through workforce development. We take pride in being a trusted resource for state policymakers wherever they are in addressing an education issue.

STATE EDUCATION POLICY TRACKING TOOL | Our policy team tracks all state education legislation across the nation on a range of education topics and issues. Our [interactive map](#) allows users to search enacted and vetoed education bills from the last few years. We also maintain an archive of legislation dating back to 1996.

POLICY REPORTS | We use our expertise, research and policy tracking to dive deep into every angle of education policy to best support state policymakers in decisions for their states. We publish a [variety of reports](#) that assist state leaders at all levels, no matter their experience.

50-STATE COMPARISONS | [50-State Comparisons](#) continue to be our most popular resource. A comprehensive collection of information allows users to compare how states are approaching key issues, and common questions are answered.

ED NOTE BLOG | This [platform](#) offers timely discussion of education policy topics with quick, easy-to-read posts on trending education issues and highlights of state work.

Engagement



1.2 million
visits to ecs.org



4,886
attendees
at our events

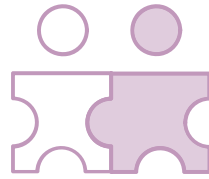


90%
of Commissioner
appointments filled

Collaboration



23 events
in person and virtual



5 partnership
projects
with peer organizations



10 guest
voices
featured on
Ed Note blog

Service



7,420
legislative bills
tracked



281 strategic
connections
across the nation



484
answered
information
requests

Our Work at a Glance

Enhancing Engagement Strategies

This year, we enhanced our engagement strategies to best support our key audiences in their everyday work. We turned our focus to pressing state policy issues and new ways for state leaders to engage with our resources.

A Suite of Teaching Profession Insights

Following ongoing national teacher shortages, we learned that state policymakers needed resources and support to build and retain teacher workforces in their state.

We hosted two virtual webinars as a part of our Partnering for Success [series](#) where state leaders shared expertise and best practices to address teacher workforce issues. These sessions were:

- Addressing Shortages Across the Teacher Pipeline.
- Building a Strong Teacher Workforce Through Apprenticeships.

Our team also published a [Special Report](#) on State Policy Levers to Address Teacher Shortages and a three-part blog post [series](#) on teacher compensation. We house all of our teaching profession resources on this Key Issue [page](#).

Interactive and Accessible Resources

Design and accessibility play a major role in how our key audiences use our resources, so we took many steps to make our resources and communication tools more effective this year. A few examples:

- State Approaches to Funding Dual Enrollment Programs is a [Special Report](#) that includes several interactive design features to help readers navigate the report and find relevant state examples on the issue.
- Our redesigned daily education policy newsletter, [Ed Clips](#), provides users with a more intuitive and accessible reading experience.
- We fortified our commitment to publishing accessible resources to enhance the experience of all users and particularly for audiences that use screen readers and/or have disabilities. We've also integrated tools and practices to make our resources easier to comprehend.

In 2022, we recorded **1.2 million pageviews** on [ecs.org](#) — our home base for every resource and service we offer to our key audiences. Find all resources published in 2022 [here](#).

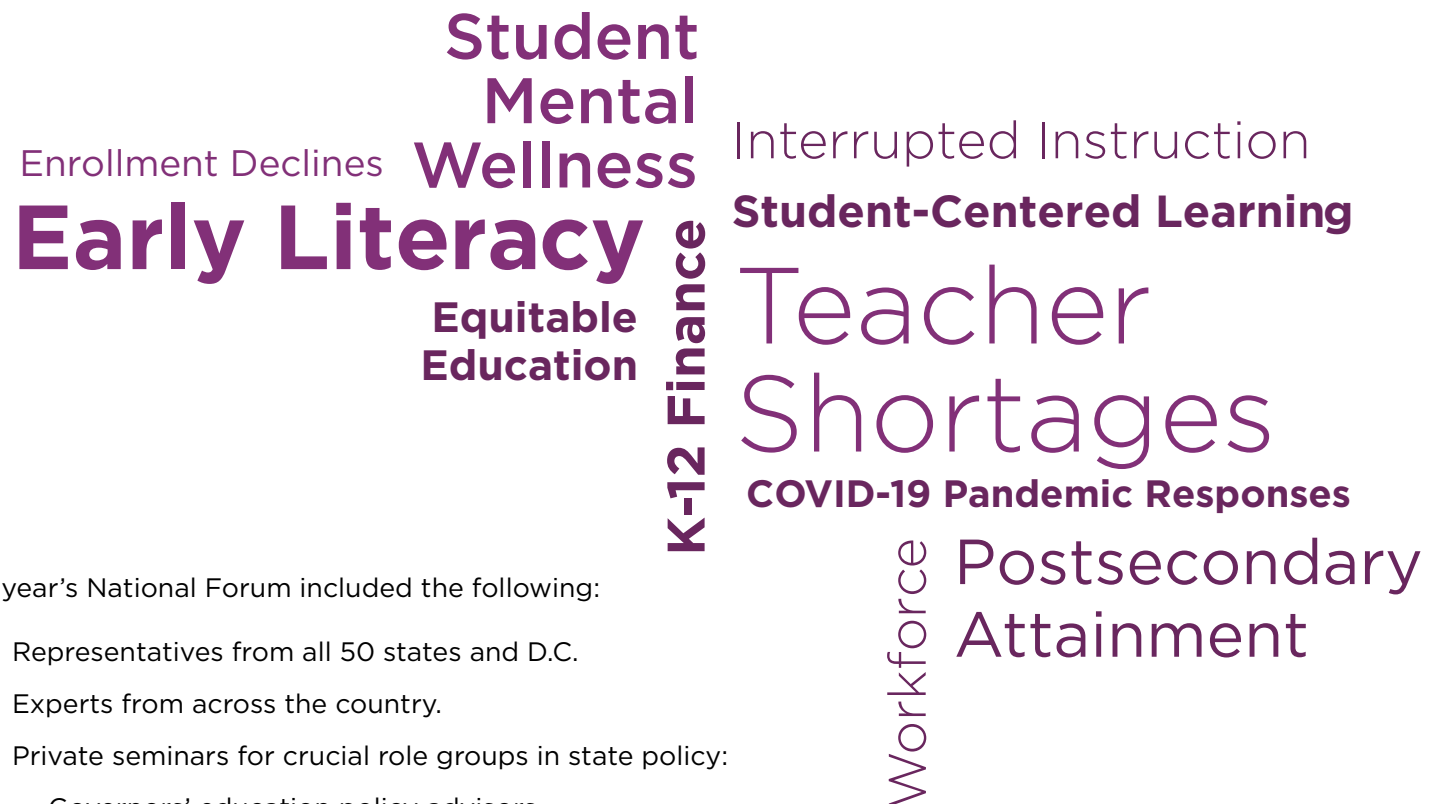
“I always count on the Ed Clips daily newsletter to start my day and stay informed on the latest education news.”

– a governor’s education policy advisor

2022
HIGHLIGHT

Connecting State Policymakers From Across the Country

National Forum on Education Policy is our marquee, annual event that helps build relationships and knowledge among state leaders. We were thrilled to return to an in-person event with **600+** attendees in Washington, D.C., full of insightful education policy sessions, expert speakers and networking opportunities. We coordinated panel discussions and dynamic presentations to support policymakers' most significant areas of focus:



This year's National Forum included the following:

- Representatives from all 50 states and D.C.
- Experts from across the country.
- Private seminars for crucial role groups in state policy:
 - Governors' education policy advisors.
 - Legislative Education Staff Network.
 - Executive directors of state boards of education.

“Thank you all for this convening. It was a welcoming space to share stories and build new collaboration. Kudos to the ECS team for all you have done.”

– a state education
commissioner



State Policy Academies

Another opportunity for policymakers to connect is during our Policy Academies, which give state leaders a confidential space to workshop the challenges they're facing and learn from the approaches in other states. In 2022, we hosted a Policy Academy on improving early STEAM education where participants learned from leading artists, experts and national leaders to develop actionable items for their home state. They left with new policy approaches and connections with colleagues to continue their work.

For example, state leaders in Vermont discussed the potential of a statewide STEAM framework to support awareness, professional development and school designation. In Michigan, state leaders requested a review of the MiSTEM Advisory Council Annual Report for additional research and state examples.

“Thank you for such an amazing conference and hospitality experience! I haven't felt this cared for in 20 years as an ECS Commissioner.”

– a state senator

“I know that our board members came back very excited and appreciative of the insights and information they gleaned from the convening.”

– a state superintendent

Supporting States With Personalized Services

The core of our work at ECS is our individualized service to states in education policy. We know that state leaders need different kinds of supports depending on the status of an issue. In 2022, our team initiated connections with state policymakers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to support key policymaking work in a number of ways, including the following:

- In-person and virtual state visits in 30 states.
- Policy consultations in 28 states.
- Testimony to legislative committees or working groups in 11 states.
- Technical assistance provided to 24 states.

Additionally, we answered **464** requests for information. This is one of our most popular services, because of our nonpartisan analysis, trusted research and timeliness in response. The topics we received the most questions on were the following:

K-12 Governance
School Finance
Reading/Literacy
Student Health
Accountability
School Climate/Safety
Teaching Quality
Data Systems

“Thank you! We would not have been successful without the support of ECS. Thank you for the essential part you played in the process and information.”

– after the passage of the Alaska Reads Act



State Education Policy Tracking

Our [State Education Policy Tracking tool](#) is the foundation of our research and trends work; it informs our analyses and the information we provide states. In 2022, we tracked 7,420 bills across all states that addressed education. Of those, we summarized 1,164 enacted bills and 45 vetoed bills. The high-volume policy areas were:

- Teaching.
- K-12 Finance.
- Curriculum.
- Student Health.

“It’s a great relief to have the bill signed after so much hard work! It was great to work with you - thank you for your assistance with data and policy options from other states, and for keeping track of our work along the way. We look forward to working with you again.”

- after the passage of Vermont’s new English-learner funding model

Your Education Policy Team

When we're not busy serving state policymakers, we make sure to plan time to connect as a team and give back to our local community. We couldn't do the work we do without ensuring that all team members are feeling their best and are invested in their work.

To ensure this, the leadership team prioritizes employee satisfaction and well-being through the following:

- Professional development funding.
- Tuition reimbursement.
- Comprehensive insurance coverage.
- Mental health days.
- Diversity, equity and inclusion funding.
- Hybrid work schedule.
- Team-bonding investments.

Meet Our Team



The ECS team spent an afternoon building bikes for two classes of students at a Denver elementary school.

[Communications](#) | [Convene](#) | [Operations](#) | [Policy](#) | [State Relations](#)

Top 50 Best Non-profits to Work for Nationally

2022 is the sixth consecutive year that we've received this distinction from the leading national business publication for nonprofit management. The NonProfit Times, along with the Best Companies Group, names the top 50 organizations based on anonymous employee feedback and analysis of things like policies, practices and diversity.

“The people that make up the organization are a joy to work with — sharp, passionate and dedicated to better education policy — and our work and relationships that we build together toward a common goal makes for a great environment to work in.”

– survey response

Meet Our 2022 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is made up of a bipartisan group of state leaders who provide strategic direction and oversight for the management, operations and financial policies.



CHAIR

Asa Hutchinson
*Former Governor
Arkansas*



VICE CHAIR

Brittney Miller
*Assemblymember
Nevada*



TREASURER

Margie Vendeven
*Commissioner
of Education
Missouri*



ECS PRESIDENT

Jeremy Anderson
*President
Education Commission
of the States*

MEMBERS



Kathy Anthes
*Commissioner
of Education
Colorado*



Stephanie Bell
*Member
State Board
of Education
Alabama*



Peter Blake
*Director
State Council of
Higher Education
Virginia*



Ben Cannon
*Executive Director
Higher Education
Coordinating
Commission
Oregon*



Wendy Horman
*Representative
Idaho*

Meet Our Partners and Funders

We believe that systemic changes in education come from collaboration with state leaders and the business community. Partnering with businesses and foundations strengthens our ability to help state policymakers address education challenges in a strategic and collaborative way. We're grateful for the support and collaboration from each of our Partners. We couldn't do our work without them!

PLATINUM

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

 **Navigate360**
Building safer tomorrows.™

Wallace 

GOLD

 **AT&T**

 **CLASSWALLET**

cognia™

 **Pearson**

 **TEXAS
INSTRUMENTS**

SILVER



BRONZE

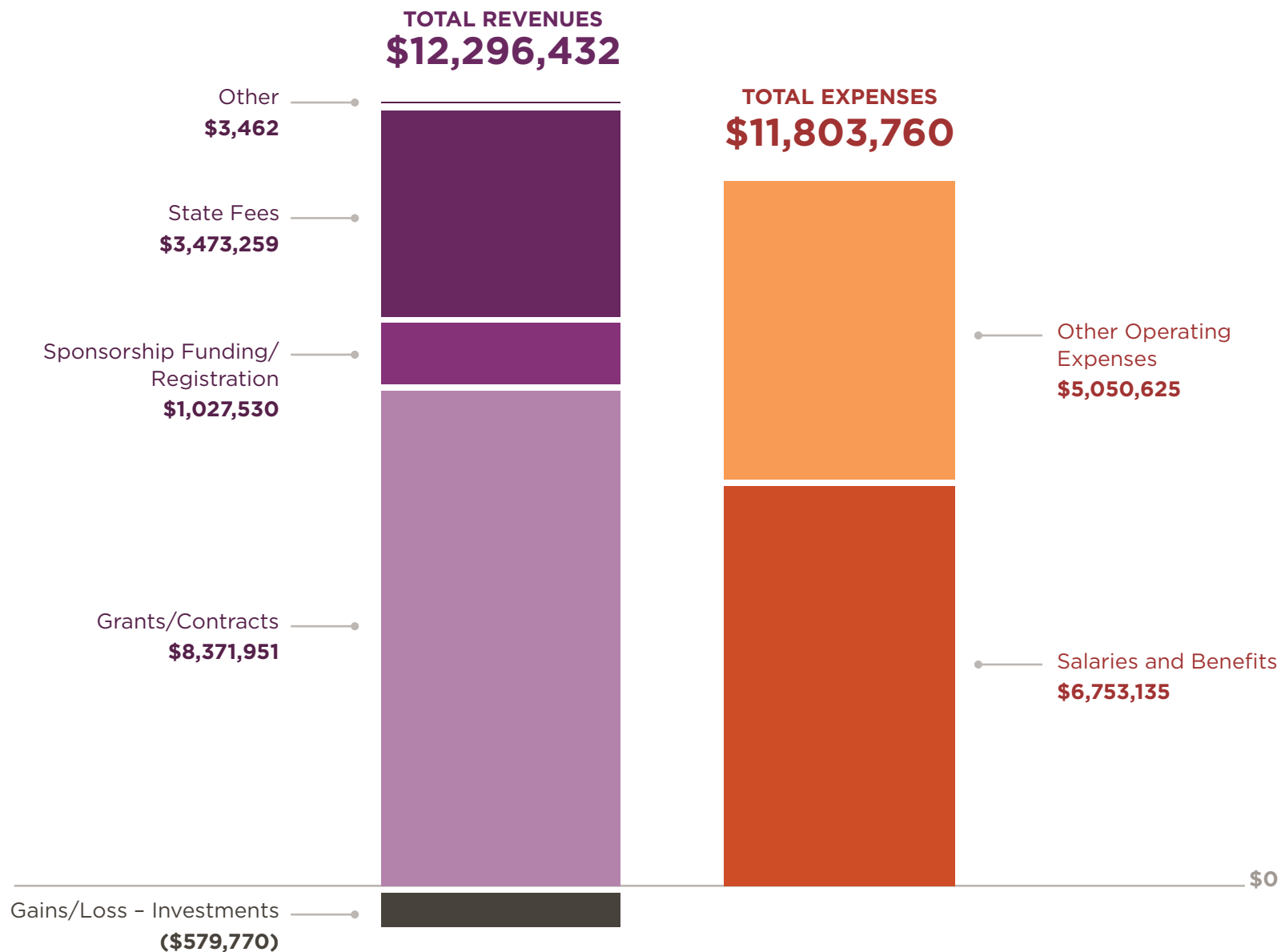


These foundations also supported specific ECS projects in 2022:

Ascendium Education Group
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
ECMC Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
Heising-Simons Foundation
Hewlett Foundation
John M Belk Endowment
National Endowment
for the Arts
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Strada Education Network
U.S. Department of Education
The Wallace Foundation

Budget and Financial Summary

Statement of financial position for year ending Dec. 31, 2022.



Education Commission of the States | ecs.org
700 Broadway Suite 810 Denver, CO 80203

© 2023 by Education Commission of the States. All rights reserved.