Who We Are:
Education Commission of the States partners with education policy leaders nationwide to address issues by sharing resources and expertise. We are proud to serve both the people who develop and implement education policy and the students who directly benefit from effective policy change. Every day, we provide education leaders with unbiased information and opportunities for collaboration because informed policymakers create better education policy.

We were named by The Nonprofit Times for four years in a row as one of the Top 50 Best Nonprofits to Work For. In the surveys conducted, Education Commission of the States’ employees expressed the strongest satisfaction in the categories of leadership and planning, role satisfaction, work environment, relationship with supervisor, pay and benefits, and overall engagement. We are an equal opportunity employer offering competitive salaries and an outstanding benefits package. Education Commission of the States provides an exciting intellectual environment, a collegial workplace, flexible hours and an organizational structure that encourages teamwork.

Who You Are:
A Director for the Strong Start to Finish Initiative at Education Commission of the States will lead staff and projects to meet the organization’s mission and goals. This position will work on the Strong Start to Finish initiative, reporting to the Vice President of Policy.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities
1. Creates value for external ECS and SSTF constituents through leading and executing deep content work, networking the initiative and its participants to achieve strategic outcomes, and ensuring high-level thought-partnership and support to scaling and strategy sites.
2. Serves as a content expert in developmental education reform and represents SSTF and the SSTF Network as a leader at events, conferences, and in coordinated conversations with potential funders and state leadership teams.
3. Positions SSTF initiative within the postsecondary education reform ecosystem to support positioning of initiative and advancement of funder strategy and goals.
4. Supports the Vice President of Policy with the SSTF Funder Advisory Board and works with the internal ECS team to manage SSTF-related budgets. Serves as resource for funders on issues related to developmental education and evaluation of potential funding strategies.
5. Works as part of internal SSTF teams around specific projects/bodies of work and supplies content expertise and knowledge of developmental education reform issue space to support creation of high-value product and output across the SSTF portfolio. Examples include execution of any SSTF convening events and opportunities created by communication work.
6. Supports development of concept pieces and proposals for additional initiative funding.
7. Build and maintain a SSTF team culture that has continuity with ECS culture expectations, norms, and staff experiences.
8. Responsible for the full SSTF employee cycle and ensuring that team members have the skills and competencies necessary to execute against established work plans. Includes responsibility for recruitment, hiring, and coaching/development of all non-Director level SSTF staff.

9. Connects work of staff across all three ‘channels’ (Grow, Deepen, Engage) of activity to support a common sense of purpose and meaning to the work. Emphasis on developing a cross functional team and finding appropriate places for innovation, coordination, and continuous learning and improvement aligned with the goals of the initiative.

10. Reports to Vice-President of Policy.

**Required Skills and Qualifications**

- Master’s degree required.
- Five to 10 years of public policy, educational leadership, and or network management experience required.
- Proficient in use of digital software and technology, including databases, MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

**Compensation and Benefits:**

Education Commission of the States offers competitive compensation and benefits, including health, dental, life, long term disability, vision insurance, a flexible spending account, a health reimbursement account and a yearly contribution to your 403b retirement plan. This position is located in Denver, CO. The salary range for this position is commensurate with experience.

**Applying for the Position:**

To be considered for this position, please send a resume and cover letter e-mail to Kate Haggerty/ khaggerty@ecs.org. Please include “Director” in the subject line.

**Deadline to apply:** All applications must be received by close of business Monday, January 4, 2021.

*Education Commission of the States is an equal opportunity employer that believes in developing and supporting a diverse work force.*