



Education Commission
of the States



ANNUAL REPORT 2012



“The Education Commission (of the States)... enables states to do together what they could not do near so well alone.”

North Carolina Governor Terry Sanford,
1966

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We have made it easy for you to navigate this report. Throughout this document, you will find **hyperlinks in blue** to reports, meetings, resources, and ECS web pages.



Education Commission

2011-13 ECS Chair: Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper

ECS Chair-Elect: Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval

ECS President: Jeremy Anderson

700 Broadway, Suite 810

Denver, CO 80203-3442

303.299.3600 || 303.296.8332 fax

www.ecs.org || ecs@ecs.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear ECS Commissioners, education policymakers, and friends of ECS,

Education in the United States is on the threshold of a new era. By the end of 2012, 46 states and the District of Columbia had adopted the Common Core State Standards and were busy preparing for their implementation in 2013. Congress debated the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), while more states received waivers from the law. Student performance received even more attention, and that performance was more tightly tied to teacher evaluations. "Global competitiveness" gained traction as districts and states compared their student outcomes not only with each other, but with the rest of the world.

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) was with you along the way to help make sense of how these changes are affecting every student in every district in America. We have our finger on the pulse of what states are doing in education policy, what the research says, and what the biggest, newest ideas coming around the bend portend for education. We supported you through your calls to our Information Clearinghouse (where we respond with an answer within 24 hours), through our policy analysis and publications, through our website that houses the nation's biggest collection of education resources, and of course through our annual National Forum on Education Policy.

Inside you will find a small sample of what we did for you in 2012. Many of these projects were initiated by our ECS Commissioners to help states further develop and implement meaningful education policy. At times, even ECS Commissioners are surprised at the breadth of issues we cover or how deep our resources are on any given issue. We are proud of the depth of our research and glad that our services have been integral in so many important education policy discussions across the nation. We want you to call us, email us, and check out our website if you have any education policy questions. We are here to serve you and make your job easier.

ECS also experienced some changes last year. Roger Sampson stepped down as ECS president in November. Roger joined ECS in 2007 at a pivotal time in our history when ECS needed steady leadership. Roger stepped into the role with ease and quickly straightened our course. The staff and I thank him for his dedication to ECS and behind-the-scenes work that made us even stronger. I am proud to lead an organization that has a first-rate staff and an esteemed history. With over 48 years of experience guiding education policy across the nation, ECS works with the country's most committed education leaders. Together we can accomplish so much in 2013.

Thanks for your support and here's to another successful year at ECS.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Anderson



Dear Colleagues,

Just two years ago, states faced a national recession and the largest drop in revenue in history. States had no choice but to cut funding for schools and other essential services.

Today, with an improving economy, many states are beginning to restore funding for education—not enough to make up for the shortfall experienced in the Great Recession—but states are taking steps in the right direction.

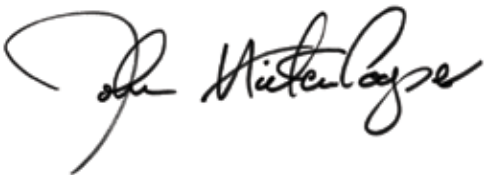
We are proud to say that Colorado leads the nation in establishing a system to measure teacher effectiveness. Last year, we built on this effort by passing an early childhood literacy program that is among the most innovative in the country. The Read Act identifies struggling readers early and provides interventions so that all children can read by the end of 3rd grade.

We are in good company in our efforts to address early literacy, as it was a priority in many states in 2012. But as ECS pointed out in a recent report series, after 40 years of state reading initiatives we have failed to move the needle in any significant way. ECS is helping to raise awareness of the value of early childhood education in efforts to improve early literacy. They are helping states learn from one another. They are sharing lessons from research, highlighting best practices, and bringing forth innovative ideas.

Reforming the education system doesn't end at 12th grade. It continues into higher education. ECS is leading a nationwide movement on linking and aligning K-12 education to opportunities that lead to timely completion of a two-year or four-year degree. Like other states, Colorado is focused on supporting students with the highest need and incentivizing retention.

Within Colorado, we work hard to maintain a collaborative spirit between the state, local governments, and special districts. Similarly, the collaborative work of states through ECS echoes this commitment. Created for states, by states, ECS can help us work together to improve opportunities across the nation.

Sincerely,



John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
2011-13 ECS Chair



What is ECS?

- ★ **A national organization formed by states, for states**, in 1965 to help states improve their educational systems, from pre-kindergarten all the way through college and beyond.
- ★ **A commission** guided by 371 of the nation's education leaders. Each state, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories are represented by top decisionmakers who inform our work and share our resources with their peers.
- ★ **An unbiased contributor** to the education policy discussion, which means we don't advocate for certain education laws or policies. We provide objective information to the people who pass laws and make decisions.
- ★ **A convener of education stakeholders** from different perspectives, such as governors, state legislators, state superintendents, state boards of education, and higher education leaders.
- ★ **A resource on issues** across the entire education spectrum, from early learning to postsecondary and the workforce. We provide policymakers and leaders with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions.
- ★ **The intermediary** through which states learn from one another to develop effective policies and practices for public education that improve student outcomes.

What have we done for you?

Here are just a few of the services we provided and resources we created in 2012:

Analysis and resources

We analyzed dozens of issues and produced over 30 publications, ranging from 50-state summaries to policy briefs to more in-depth reports. For example:

- ★ Three-report series on early literacy
 - ◆ *Third-Grade Literacy Policies: Identification, Intervention, Retention* (report)
 - ◆ *Third-Grade Reading Policies* (50-state overview)
 - ◆ *A Problem Still in Search of a Solution: A State Policy Roadmap for Improving Early Reading Proficiency* (report)
- ★ *Service-learning After Learn and Serve America: How Five States Are Moving Forward* (report)
- ★ *Teacher Expectations of Students: A self-fulfilling prophecy?* (Progress of Education Reform brief)
- ★ *End-of-Course Exams* (50-state policy overview)
- ★ *Moving the Needle on Degree Completion: The Legislative Role* (brief)

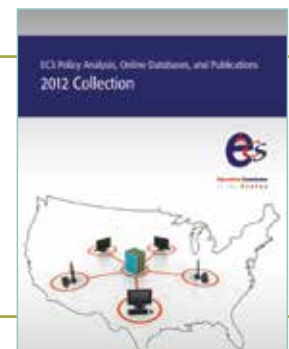
Will you please tell the person (or persons) that compiled all of the third grade reading [information] that they did a fantastic job. Talk about a comprehensive one-stop shop. Keep up the great work!

~Senate education chair

2012 ECS Products

Check out our impressive collection, which includes direct links to ECS policy analysis and research, *The Progress of Education Reform*, ECS Research Studies database, ECS State Policy databases, and ECS newsletters.

www.ecs.org/2012ECSPubs.pdf



Expertise-sharing and technical assistance

We shared our expertise at conference presentations and offered unbiased testimony at committee hearings. We responded within 24 hours to hundreds of information requests from governors' offices, legislators, legislative staff, state agency officials, members of the media, and citizens. We provided consultation on education policy projects and collaborated with task forces and peer organizations.

For instance:

- ★ We produced a briefing memo on state-adopted college-readiness assessments to inform the deliberations of the Wisconsin College and Workforce Readiness Council.
- ★ We conducted three visits to Nevada to provide testimony to the legislature's interim education committee on early learning, P-16/P-20 councils, and high school assessment.
- ★ We supported implementation of high-quality service-learning in 19 schools in 10 states through the Schools of Success project.
- ★ We formed and convened an esteemed national Early Learning Caucus to provide guidance on emerging early learning issues and serve as ambassadors on P-3 best practices and policies.
- ★ We visited Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to talk with small groups of legislators and higher education officials about issues such as college access and affordability, postsecondary governance, and workforce development.
- ★ We consulted with both the Connecticut Education Cost Sharing Task Force and the Vermont legislature on school funding issues.

Thank you so much for this great information! I really appreciate the quick turn-around and the wide array of ideas ... You've given me some good homework for tonight!

~ Governor's education policy advisor

I think you are the best source I've ever dealt with. THANK YOU very, very much!

~ State NPR affiliate

Contributions to policymaker and public knowledge about education issues

Our website (www.ecs.org) provides anywhere, anytime access to the most comprehensive set of education policy resources in the nation. You will gain a national perspective on what other states are doing, what the research says, and where else you can find information on over 100 topics.

- ★ *ECS State Policy Tracking Database*: This is the only publicly available database of state education policies (enacted laws and executive orders) in the country. We have entered almost 40,000 policies since the 1990s; over 2,000 in 2012.
- ★ *ECS Research Studies Database*: We translate key findings of academic research studies that are not easily accessible. We added over two dozen new studies last year.
- ★ *Links to other education websites and good reports*: We added 670 resources to our website last year.
- ★ *Newsletters and Blogs*: We e-mail daily (e-Clips) and weekly (e-Connection) round-ups of education news, policies, and reports, along with other issue-specific e-newsletters. We host blogs focused on the Common Core, remedial education, and college completion.

I stumbled across your website, which was...VERY helpful—I found exactly what I needed.

~ Citizen

Convenings

We convened hundreds of policymakers and education leaders at meetings and through webinars to share information, facilitate collaboration and networking within and across states, and connect our constituents with leading education experts. For example:

47th annual National Forum on Education Policy

July 9-11, in Atlanta, Georgia

- ★ Delegations representing 48 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories attended.
- ★ Speakers included Bill Gates, The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor, international innovators Dr. Michael Fullan and Dr. Paul Kelley, and Governors John Hickenlooper, Jack Markell, and Brian Sandoval.

The ECS Forum is consistently the best education conference year in and year out.

~Legislator



2nd National Summit on the Role of Education in Economic Development in Rural America

April 17, Washington, D.C.

- ★ Over 130 state and national policymakers attended, including ECS Commissioners from 35 states and two territories.
- ★ Speakers included Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and officials from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor.
- ★ Presentations highlighted rural economic development and education initiatives.



Three **Every Student a Citizen** regional meetings, through which we engaged state leaders in 45 states in examining and planning for civic learning and engagement.

Boosting College Completion workshop for 17 legislative education chairs who discussed strategies to use policy to advance higher education goals and learned about new college completion approaches from each other and from experts.



The ECS Executive Committee honored Dr. E. D. Hirsch with the 2012 James Bryant Conant Award at the 2012 ECS National Forum on Education Policy.



Bill Gates spoke at the 2012 National Forum.

WHO WE ARE

President: Jeremy Anderson (303.299.3624 or janderson@ecs.org)

INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

Main line: 303.299.3675

Co-Directors: Kathy Christie (303.299.3613 or kchristie@ecs.org), Vice President of Information/Knowledge Management
Jennifer Dounay Zinth (303.299.3689 or jdounay@ecs.org)

The Information Clearinghouse is one of the nation's most complete education policy resources. Addressing issues across the P-20 spectrum, staff track and enter policies into our publicly accessible database, synthesize state policies into a 50-state landscape, translate quality education research studies into a reader-friendly format, respond—usually immediately—to requests for information, and surface critical and emerging issues across states. Clearinghouse staff also maintain content on www.ecs.org.

EARLY LEARNING AND P-3 INSTITUTE

Director: Bruce Atchison (303.299.3657 or batchison@ecs.org)

The Early Learning and P-3 Institute aims to increase policymakers' understanding of early learning issues, identify and share innovative ideas and policies, and provide practical advice on best practices. In collaboration with their newly formed Early Learning Caucus, they expanded the ECS' early learning database, increased early learning-focused publications, and facilitated presentations on P-3 at ECS meetings and other convenings.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING AND CITIZENSHIP (NCLC)

Director: Paul Baumann, Ph.D. (303.299.3608 or pbaumann@ecs.org)

The National Center for Learning and Citizenship helps policymakers and education leaders improve civic learning and engagement opportunities for all students. Under the direction of an expert board, they disseminate current research, best practices, and policy development tools that support the revitalization of the civic mission of schools.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Director: Matt Gianneschi, Ph.D. (303.299.3615 or mgianneschi@ecs.org)

Former Director: Bruce Vandal, Ph.D.

The Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development Institute provides policymakers and higher education leaders with the resources and technical support they need to make significant improvements in higher education—particularly related to remedial education and college completion. They provided direct assistance to more than 30 states through customized workshops and presentations, managed comprehensive state policy databases, produced relevant reports, and created state profiles that highlighted current policies and postsecondary system reform efforts.

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Georgia

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Steering Committee members in bold

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Amy Morton, *Executive Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education*
Jeffrey Piccola, *Chair, Senate Education Committee*
James Roebuck, Minority Chair, House Education Committee

2012 ECS COMMISSIONERS

PUERTO RICO

Luis Fortuno, *Governor*

Lucy Arce Ferrer, State Senator

Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon, *Speaker of the House*

Edward Moreno, *Secretary of Education*

RHODE ISLAND

Lincoln Chafee, *Governor*

Terri Adelman, *Executive Director, Volunteers in Providence Schools*

Peter McWalters, *former Commissioner of Education*

SOUTH CAROLINA

Nikki Haley, *Governor*

Robert Hayes, *State Senator*

Larry Kobrovsky, *Attorney at Law*

Willis Walling, *citizen*

Garrison Walters, Executive Director, South Carolina Education Foundation

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dennis Daugaard, *Governor*

Mark Johnston, *Chair, Senate Education Committee*

Rick Melmer, *Dean, University of South Dakota*

Melody Schopp, Secretary of Education

Jacqueline Sly, *Vice Chair, House Education Committee*

Tony Venhuizen, *Director of Policy and Communications, Office of the Governor*

Jack Warner, *Executive Director and CEO, South Dakota Board of Regents*

TENNESSEE

Bill Haslam, *Governor*

Joe Carr, *State Representative*

Dolores Gresham, *Chair, Senate Education Committee*

Tomeka Hart, *Vice President, Teach for America*

Richard Rhoda, Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Lana Seivers, *Dean, Middle Tennessee State University*

Patrick Smith, *consultant*

TEXAS

Rick Perry, *Governor*

Daniel Branch, *Chair, House Higher Education Committee*

Rob Eissler, *Chair, House Public Education Committee*

Raymund Paredes, *Commissioner of Higher Education*

Robert Scott, *former Commissioner of Education*

Florence Shapiro, Chair, Senate Education Committee

Royce West, *Chair, Senate Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education Funding*

UTAH

Gary Herbert, *Governor*

Francis Gibson, *Chair, House Education Committee*

Christine Kearl, Education Director, Office of the Governor

Aaron Osmond, *Chair, Senate Education Committee*

Howard Stephenson, *Co-Chair, Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee*

VERMONT

Peter Shumlin, *Governor*

Robert Starr, *State Senator*

VIRGIN ISLANDS

John deJongh, *Governor*

David Hall, *President, University of the Virgin Islands*

Winona Hendricks, *Chair, Virgin Islands Board of Education*

Nereida Rivera O'Reilly, *State Senator*

Luis Sylvester, *Education Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor*

LaVerne Terry, Commissioner of Education

VIRGINIA

Robert McDonnell, *Governor*

Antione Green, *Vice President, Richmond Education Foundation*

Joseph Guzman, *School Board Member, Loudoun County Public Schools*

Patricia A. Harvey, *Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Richard Bland College*

Algie Howell, *Delegate*

Stephen Martin, *Chair, Senate Education and Health Committee*

Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

WEST VIRGINIA

Earl Ray Tomblin, *Governor*

Patricia Kusimo, *President and CEO, The Education Alliance*

Steven Paine, *VP of Strategic Planning and Business Development,*

CTB McGraw-Hill

Robert Plymale, *Chair, Senate Education Committee*

Mary Poling, Chair, House Education Committee

Nancy Sturm, *Principal Consultant, The Sextant Group*

WISCONSIN

Scott Walker, *Governor*

Tony Evers, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Tracie Happel, *Teacher, School District of LaCrosse*

Steve Kestell, *Chair, Assembly Education Committee*

Demond Means, *Superintendent, Mequon-Thiensville School District*

Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Education Committee

WYOMING

Matt Mead, *Governor*

Rollin Abernethy, Professor Emeritus, University of Wyoming

Hank Bailey, *Trustee, Laramie County School District*

Gregg Blikre, *State Representative*

Chris Rothfuss, *State Senator*

Rachel Rubino, *Special Education Case Manager, Albany County School District*

Kathryn Valido, *President, Wyoming Education Association*

This list is as of December 31, 2012.
For a current list of commissioners and their titles,
please see: www.ecs.org/commissioners.

2012-13 CORPORATE PARTNERS

Platinum

General Electric Pearson

Gold

AT&T Corinthian Colleges State Farm Companies Foundation

Silver

College Board Educational Testing Service (ETS) MetaMetrics Wireless Generation

2012 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Archer Daniels Midland Measured Progress

2012 GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

New Grants and ContractsThe Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
GE Foundation
Ivy Tech Community College
Pew Charitable Trusts
State Farm Companies Foundation**Continuing Grants and Contracts**The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Lumina Foundation
Learn and Serve America/Corporation for
National and Community Service**Activity/Project**College readiness
Progress of Education Reform/Research studies
Developmental education redesign model
Pre-kindergarten to 3rd grade (P-3)
Civic engagement and service-learning**Activity/Project**College completion
Developmental/Remedial education
Service-learning

ECS Statement of Financial Position for year ending Dec. 31, 2012

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUES

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| UNRESTRICTED GRANTS/CONTRACTS | \$1,112,267 |
| SPONSORSHIP FUNDING/REGISTRATION | \$468,450 |
| STATE FEES | \$2,352,862 |
| INTEREST & DIVIDENDS | \$6,727 |
| GAIN/LOSS – INVESTMENTS | \$1,040 |
| OTHER | \$113,518 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$4,054,864 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| SALARIES & BENEFITS | \$1,942,112 |
| OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES | \$1,770,754 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$3,712,866 |

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | \$6,250,484 |
| PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT | \$196,544 |
| INVESTMENTS | \$15,540 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$6,462,568 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | \$67,264 |
| ACCRUALS | \$163,712 |
| DEFERRED REVENUE | \$1,895,988 |
| OTHER | \$110,590 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$2,237,554 |

NET ASSETS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS | \$196,544 |
| UNRESTRICTED | \$4,028,470 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$4,225,014 |



Governor Hickenlooper presented the 2012 ECS Corporate Award to Kelli Wells and Bob Corcoran of the GE Foundation.

"I wanted to thank you for this fantastic email. You have been able to provide us with great guidance this past week."

~Legislative staffer commenting about the resources we provided on an issue



ECS Executive Committee member Tom Horgan presented the 2012 ECS Frank Newman Award for State Innovation to the State of New Hampshire. Commissioner of Education Virginia Barry accepted the award.



Assemblywoman Barbara Clark (NY), Representative James Roebuck (PA), and Senator Shirley Turner (NJ), members of the ECS Steering Committee, enjoying the 2012 National Forum.

"[The National Forum] was an excellent introduction to the contemporary issues in education policy at the national level. I think one of the best things the National Forum can offer is a space for innovative thought."

~University faculty member



Representative Jackie Sly (SD) talks to Senator Nancy Stiles (NH) at the Rural Summit.

“Kudos to ... ECS for organizing such an impressive, informative, and—hopefully— influential summit.”

~Corporate partner commenting on 2012 Rural Summit



Secretary Tom Vilsack discussed the Department of Agriculture's resources for rural communities at the 2012 Rural Summit.



Secretary Joseph Meyer (KY), Chancellor George Pernsteiner (OR), and Senator John Goedde (ID), ECS Steering Committee members, at the 2012 Winter Commissioners' Meeting.