



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

*Transforming Lives Through Education*



# Board of Directors

Foundation for Excellence in Education

**Mission:** *To build an American education system that equips every child to achieve his or her God-given potential.*

**Vision:** *An education system that maximizes every student's potential for learning and prepares all students for success in the 21st century.*



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# A Message *from* Our Chairman

All children are born with the gift of their own unique talents and abilities. But for far too many, that gift never is unwrapped.

Children born with the soul of a poet who never will write a verse. Children born with an entrepreneurial spirit who never will start a business. Children born with the ability to tear things apart and put them back together who will never work on an engine or build a home.

The loss of this potential is a tragedy for them, their families, their communities and our nation. It is through the combined talents of individuals that America prospers and leads the world.

But they must be given opportunity to participate and succeed. And in the 21st-century economy, opportunity requires knowledge—the ability to think critically, to problem solve, to become the master of technology rather than its victim.

Our system of public education is not creating opportunity for all students. Too often, their ability to learn is pre-judged and expectations for them reduced. Their diversity and individual strengths and weaknesses are not accounted for in classrooms where all are expected to learn in the same way and at the same speed.

We are trying to cram 21st-century children into an antiquated 19th-century model, and too many do not fit. No amount of funding can change that. For 10 years now, the Foundation for Excellence in Education has worked to reform this system. We have made significant progress, but innovation and change come slowly to bureaucracies that are massive, entrenched and resistant.

In this report, you will see the broad range of initiatives we are working on—policies that personalize the learning experience for students, that challenge them with college- or career-ready expectations, that prioritize early-grade literacy and that hold schools accountable to parents and taxpayers.

But the alpha reform, the one that truly will bring disruptive change to the system, is empowering parents to put their children in the right learning environment. And that means providing them with a marketplace of quality options, from traditional public schools to charters to private schools to online offerings and homeschooling support.

Parents should not be forced to send their children to schools where they are not learning because they can't afford anything better.

Thanks to encouraging results, there is growing bipartisan support for choice and for enabling states to empower parents. Now is the time to replace incremental progress with bold advances.

Please support us, and join us, as we fight for educational equality for all children.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeb Bush".

Jeb Bush  
Chairman, ExcelinEd

# A Message *from* Our CEO

Those of us working day to day on education reform sometimes get so bogged down in the trees we lose sight of the forest we are helping to grow.

Producing this report gives us an opportunity to stand back and reflect on the success of our movement.

There now are almost 3 million students attending charter schools picked by their parents. The data on student outcomes continues to improve, particularly for our most disadvantaged children.

There are currently more than 450,000 students participating in 50 private school choice programs in 25 states and the District of Columbia. About half of these programs have been created in the past six years alone.

A relatively new choice program called Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) has emerged in five states and is being introduced in others. These accounts give parents the freedom and resources to customize learning for their children. Parents not only can use funds to pay for tuition, but also tutors, online classes and other educational services, including therapies for students with disabilities.

ESAs are a recognition that parents, not bureaucracies, are the best decision makers for children.

We are moving beyond school choice to course choice, allowing families to select from a menu of academically rigorous classes offered by vetted providers. School walls for too long have been barriers to knowledge. Now we can offer children the chance to expand their minds and horizons, giving them access to any field of study.

We are at the forefront of a personalized learning movement in which students can move through course material at a speed most conducive to their abilities. It is a system in which progress is determined by mastery of the curriculum, not time spent in a classroom seat.

We are developing templates for accountability reports that intuitively convey information on school quality to parents. By better informing them, we will better engage them in their children's education.

These reform policies, and many others, are designed around the needs of students and parents. They get us to a 21st-century, family-centered education system that uses new technology and new approaches, and presents parents with more options to pursue success for their children.

The demand for educational equality and opportunity is gaining momentum. We thank our passionate supporters and committed partners for all they have done to contribute to this movement. And most importantly, we invite others to join us as we move forward in 2017.



Sincerely,

*Patricia Levesque*

Patricia Levesque  
CEO, ExcelinEd

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*"Each year, moms and dads across our great nation send their kids to schools they know cannot or will not meet their children's individual learning needs. These students deserve something better, and their parents deserve the ability to select the best educational options for their children. I'm encouraged to see a movement of state and education leaders acting to give parents greater educational choices. And I hope that one day all parents in this country will be able to realize the opportunity of a better life for their sons and daughters."*

**Eric Cantor**

Board Member, ExcelinEd



# About *ExcelinEd*



Launched by former Florida Governor Jeb Bush in 2008, the Foundation for Excellence in Education (*ExcelinEd*) is a national leader in the education reform movement. *ExcelinEd* is a hands-on, how-to organization that designs, develops and promotes sound education policy and supports states in undertaking bold, transformative change with model legislation, rule-making expertise, technical assistance, implementation strategies and public outreach.

## Theory of Action

*ExcelinEd* wants all students to leave school with the knowledge and skills to achieve their full potential. To achieve this, *ExcelinEd* focuses on improving quality within the traditional education system as well as creating conditions in every state that foster innovation, parent empowerment and educational options for students both inside and outside of the traditional system.

By providing customized, strategic support to state policymakers, community and business leaders, reform advocates, teachers and parents, *ExcelinEd* aims to cultivate innovation and disruptions within the policy environment toward a quality, personalized learning experience for all students—while ensuring rigorous standards, meaningful measurement and effective supports.

Simply put, *ExcelinEd*'s formula for student achievement focuses on choice, innovation and accountability, with these specific goals: empower parents and students with educational choice; customize learning for today's students; use rewards and incentives to drive behavior; and measure what matters.

**We Are a Policy and Advocacy Organization**



Creating policy conditions for success.

**We Work on a Broad Range of Policies**



Raising student achievement through educational choice, next generation learning and accountability.

**We Have a Flexible National Footprint**



Supporting states across the nation where there is opportunity for transformational change.

# Our Policies

## ExcelinEd's Reform Agenda

To achieve a high-quality, student-centered education system, ExcelinEd emphasizes a comprehensive reform agenda that, when aggressively pursued, results in a measurable, objective rise in student learning across all student groups.

Since there is no single policy solution that can turn around America's schools, ExcelinEd advances a broad range of proven and cutting-edge policies, the core pillars of which are accountability, high-quality standards and measures, equitable funding, early literacy and transparency. These foundational policies are proven pathways to improving student achievement. They also create stability for advancing innovations—such as competency-based education, course access and college and career pathways—that can increase access to a quality education for all students, individualize learning and prepare students for success beyond the K-12 environment.

### Choice

- High-Performing Charters
- Education Scholarship Accounts
- Traditional Vouchers
- Tax Credit Scholarships
- Public School Choice

### Innovation

- College & Career Pathways
- Competency-Based Education
- Course Access & Personalized Learning

### Accountability

- A-F School Grading
- K-3 Reading
- High-Quality Standards & Assessments
- Education Funding Reform



ExcelinEd in Action is the 501(c)(4) sister organization to the Foundation for Excellence in Education. ExcelinEd in Action works with state lawmakers and partner organizations to pass legislation that empowers families with educational choice, prepares students for college and career, prioritizes early literacy, expands innovation and strengthens school performance.

ExcelinEd in Action's Board of Directors is an accomplished and diverse group of business, education and policy leaders, chaired by Governor Jeb Bush with members Eric Cantor, F. Philip Handy, William Oberndorf and Dr. Zachariah P. Zachariah.

# Year in Review - Quarter One

## January

### National School Choice Week

Joined students, parents, teachers, community leaders and elected officials at National School Choice Week events across the nation, including events in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Nevada and Texas.



### Georgia Education Summit

Joined Georgia state leaders and lawmakers at the 2016 Educate Georgia Summit to explore ways to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for Georgia students.

## February

### Personalized Learning

Released the Competency-Based Education Communications Toolkit for lawmakers, policymakers, district leaders and advocates seeking to adopt and implement competency-based education policies.

### Policy Brief

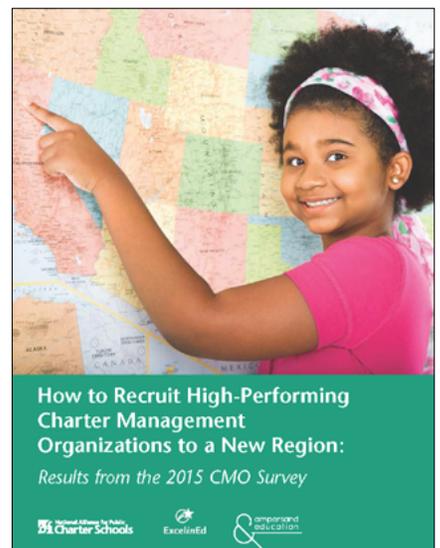
Released Expanding Access to Advanced Coursework in Arizona High Schools in collaboration with the Arizona Chamber Foundation. The policy brief finds that completing rigorous coursework in high school is one of the best predictors of students' success in college.



## March

### Charter Survey

Published How to Recruit High-Performing Charter Management Organizations to a New Region in collaboration with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools and Ampersand Education.



### 21st-Century Learning

Florida and Utah continued charting the course for a 21st-century learning environment with the adoption of competency-based education laws.

# Year in Review - Quarter Two

## April

### Testing Resources for Parents

Produced English- and Spanish-language resources around assessments and accountability for Florida parents: [\*Testing Empowers Parents\*](#) and [\*El Poder de Saber\*](#).



### Age Demography Research

Released and presented customized, original research from [\*Turn and Face the Strain: Age Demographic Change and the Near Future of American Education\*](#) for Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

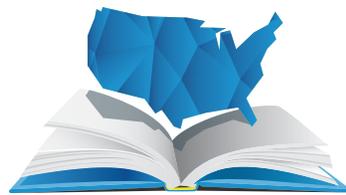
### School Choice

Florida expanded school choice options for students and parents with the adoption of public school choice and improvements to charter school, voucher, education scholarship and home education policies. In the 2015-16 school year, more than 1 million students benefited from Florida's approach to school choice.

## May

### How Do We Stack Up?

Launched [\*How Do We Stack Up? Using OECD's PISA to Drive Progress in U.S. Education\*](#), an EdPolicy Leaders Online course developed in collaboration with America Achieves and with editorial contributions from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



EdPolicyLeaders

Online

### First-of-Its-Kind Book

Collaborated with the American Enterprise Institute to commission experts and author a series of essays for a first-of-its-kind volume on Education Savings Account (ESA) policy.

## June

### Model Accountability Framework

Produced a model accountability outline to inform state accountability implementation under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### Student Data Privacy

Released [\*Building a Trusted Environment for Education Technology Products\*](#), ExcelinEd's third white paper on student data privacy.

### Effective Teachers

Joined business and industry groups in signing an Amici Curiae letter in *Vergara v. California* to support students' constitutional right to equal access to effective classroom teachers.

### Charter Schools

Colorado, Georgia and Mississippi adopted improvements to charter school laws, expanding quality educational options to more students.

# Year in Review - Quarter Three

## July

### Shaping ESSA Regulations

Engaged in the effort to shape regulations governing accountability and state plans under ESSA; submitted a letter to USED with signatures from eight states, including a governor, state education chiefs, legislative leaders and state partner organizations.

### The EdFly Blog

Published The EdFly Blog's 600th post, *Goodbye, middle school! This top school's K-8 model works.*

### College & Career Pathways

Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina and South Carolina adopted new laws to support student success and access to college and careers.

## August

### Fewer, Better Tests

Developed parent- and teacher-friendly policy recommendations aimed at improving the quality and utility of statewide assessment systems and ensuring the results of those assessments are valuable to parents, students and teachers.

### Promoting ESAs

Built and launched the Tennessee ESA website, [MyEducationTN.org](http://MyEducationTN.org), to promote the state's Individualized Education Account program.



### Redesigning School Report Cards

Began developing an open-source school report card prototype for states to model. The parent-friendly online tool enhances transparency, displays comprehensive, easy-to-understand school ratings and empowers parents with actionable feedback on school performance.



KNOW YOUR  
**SCHOOL**

## September

### MOOCs for Education Leaders

Launched *Learning to Dream: Education and Economic Mobility*, the fifth of ExcelsinEd's EdPolicy Leaders Online free, self-paced online courses for policymakers and education reform leaders.

### #AskExcelsinEd

Launched #AskExcelsinEd, a Q&A e-series to help state partners and stakeholders explore education policy. The series kicked off with a focus on ESSA and the opportunities and challenges it presents for states.

### Competency-Based Education

Released *Policy, Pilots and the Path to Competency-Based Education: A Tale of Three States*, a comprehensive policy paper outlining how and why Idaho, Utah and Florida launched competency-based education pilot programs.

### Partnership for ESAs

Partnered with the Texas Public Policy Foundation and the Texas Business Leadership Council to publish *The Achilles Heel of Texas: Improving College Eligibility Rates Through K-12 Education Savings Accounts*.

### School Choice Progress

The Nevada Supreme Court ruled that ESAs are constitutional and laid out a blueprint to address the program's funding technicality. The ruling reopens the door to 8,000 parents who had applied for an ESA in pursuit of greater educational opportunities for their children.

# Year in Review - Quarter Four

## October

### Policy Showcase

Produced five educational videos on *ExcelinEd* policies, including *Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act*, *How Should We Fund Education?* and *Course Access: Fundamental Principles*.



### Supporting ESSA Implementation

Joined national education reform experts to discuss opportunities for accountability and transparency within ESSA at a convening hosted by the Progressive Policy Institute.

### Early Literacy

Idaho, Michigan and Tennessee demonstrated their commitment to early literacy with the adoption of new K-3 reading laws.

### Shaping the National Dialogue

*ExcelinEd* Chairman Governor Jeb Bush guest lectured at the Harvard Graduate School of Education Askwith Forum, sharing policy solutions to address the highest-priority challenges facing education.

## November

### ESSA Playbook Series

Launched the ESSA Playbook Series with papers on [A-F School Accountability](#) and [School Interventions](#). The playbooks provide state policymakers with practical advice and resources on core areas of ESSA.



### ESSA Input

Submitted comments to USED on ESSA proposed “supplement, not supplant” regulations. *ExcelinEd* called for the withdrawal of the regulations and for the federal government to rely on states to provide oversight, financial transparency and equity for all students as Congress intended.

## December

### Convening State and National Leaders

Hosted more than 1,000 policymakers and education leaders from 47 states at the ninth annual National Summit on Education Reform in Washington, D.C.

### ESSA Webinar Series

Concluded a [five-part webinar series](#) discussing ESSA and what it means for states. More than 200 policymakers, state and education leaders, and philanthropic and advocacy organizations from 25 states and Washington, D.C. participated in the series.

# School Grading Drives Student Success

## A-F School Grading

### Elements of a Rigorous School Grading System

A school accountability system spurs school improvement and increases student performance by providing transparent, objective information to parents, educators and the public about school effectiveness. Essential elements include:



Clear Descriptors



Outcome-Based Measures



Proficiency & Growth



Attention on Low-Performing Students



Timely Reporting



Communicating with Parents



Recognition



Support & Intervention

A transparent, objective, easy-to-understand school accountability model.

Most states use vague labels, such as "satisfactory" or "Level 1," to rate schools instead of offering parents, policymakers and the public transparent, objective information about school effectiveness. In 1999, Florida made the revolutionary decision to grade schools on an A-F scale just like students—no further explanation needed. Behind the A-F simplicity is a data-driven system of accountability. ExcelinEd promotes an A-F School Grading policy that measures what matters: overall student performance and progress, with extra focus on struggling students, and graduation rates and college and career readiness in high school. School grading works by holding all schools to the same high expectations and clearly communicating the results to parents.

### Student Learning Gains Outpace National Average

In seven states with multiple years of implementation of A-F school grading, students are outpacing the national average on NAEP.

STATE <i>First Year of Grades</i>	Scale Score Improvement <b>OVER</b> National Average	
	4th GRADE READING	4th GRADE MATH
Florida 1999	+13	+9
Arizona 2011	+4	+7
Indiana 2011	+3	+4
Louisiana 2011	+7	+4
Mississippi 2012	+4	+5
Oklahoma 2012	+5	+3
Utah 2012	+4	0

Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

“Transparency in public education is always a good thing, and the information provided in the A-F grading system will provide parents with a clear view of their options when making decisions on the best way to educate their children.”



**Senator Del Marsh** | President Pro Tem, Alabama State Senate

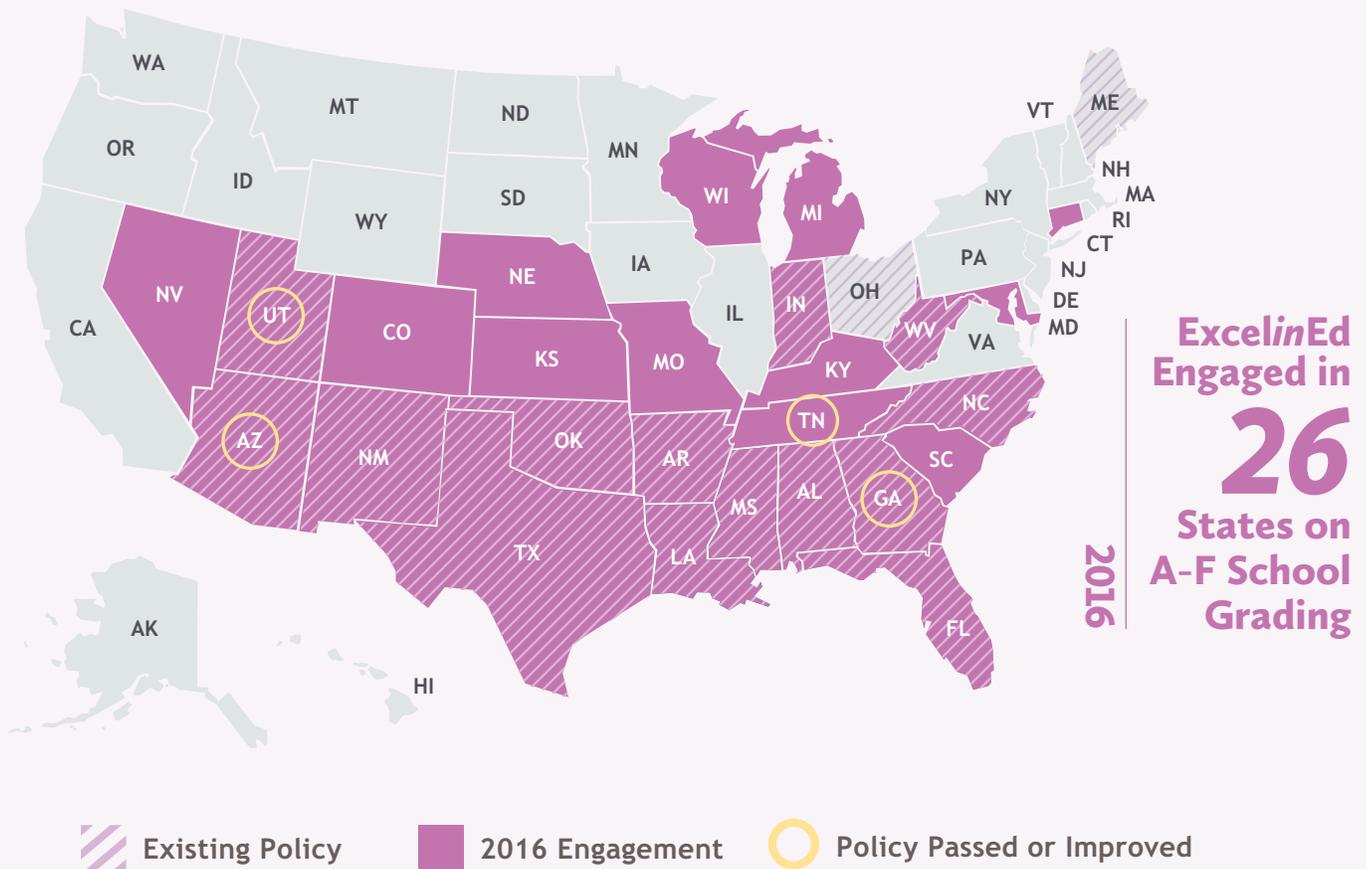
## State Actions

**Passed Policy:** *Tennessee*

**Improved Policy:** *Arizona, Georgia, Utah*

**Guided Implementation:** *Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia*

**Supported States:** *Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Wisconsin*



‘Existing Policy’ reflects states with A-F School Grading policies where ExcelsinEd provided technical support or engagement through 2015. ‘Engagement’ reflects states where ExcelsinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation in 2016. ‘Policy Passed or Improved’ reflects states where ExcelsinEd in Action helped pass or improve A-F School Grading in 2016.

## Resources

- Video:** [What grade would your school earn?](#)
- Video:** [A-F School Accountability under ESSA](#)

- Policy Summary:** [School Accountability: School Grading Drives Success](#)
- ESSA Playbook:** [A-F School Accountability](#)

# Reading is the Gateway to Learning

## K-3 Reading

### K-3 Reading Policy Essentials

An effective K-3 Reading policy ensures students become successful readers through early identification of struggling readers, intensive reading intervention, teacher resources and parent involvement. A comprehensive policy includes:



Early Literacy Screening



Parent Notification



Individual Plans



Progress Monitoring



Supports & Interventions



Retention & Exemptions



Teacher Training



Funding Support

A comprehensive reading intervention policy that begins in kindergarten and ensures that students are prepared for success before moving on to fourth grade.

From kindergarten through third grade, children are learning to read. Then in fourth grade, they transition to use reading to learn. The ability to read opens doors and opportunities that each child deserves. Without this ability, students are hindered in achieving their potential. Children who are not reading proficiently in third grade are four times more likely to drop out or fail to graduate from high school, according to a report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For low-income black and Hispanic students, that likelihood doubles.

ExcelinEd's comprehensive K-3 Reading policy was developed to ensure all students enter fourth grade with the foundational reading skills they will need to learn, graduate and succeed.

### K-3 Reading Policies Help Struggling Readers

After multiple years of implementing comprehensive K-3 Reading policies, struggling readers\* in five states are making faster improvements on NAEP fourth-grade reading than the nation as a whole.

	4th GRADE READING SCALE SCORE IMPROVEMENT OVER NATIONAL AVERAGE	APPROXIMATE LEARNING GAIN**
Oklahoma	 +10.7	1 year
Indiana	 +9.1	1 year
North Carolina	 +6.8	1/2 year
Arizona	 +2.0	<1/2 year
Colorado	 +1.3	<1/2 year

\*Struggling readers are students scoring at the 10th percentile in NAEP fourth-grade reading.

\*\*10 points equate to approximately a year's worth of learning.

Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

“With the help of ExcelinEd, we were able to support passage of a landmark K-3 Reading bill which will provide the right interventions to the right students at the right time, raising the performance bar for all 1.5 million students in Michigan.”



**Beth DeShone** | Advocacy Director, Great Lakes Education Project

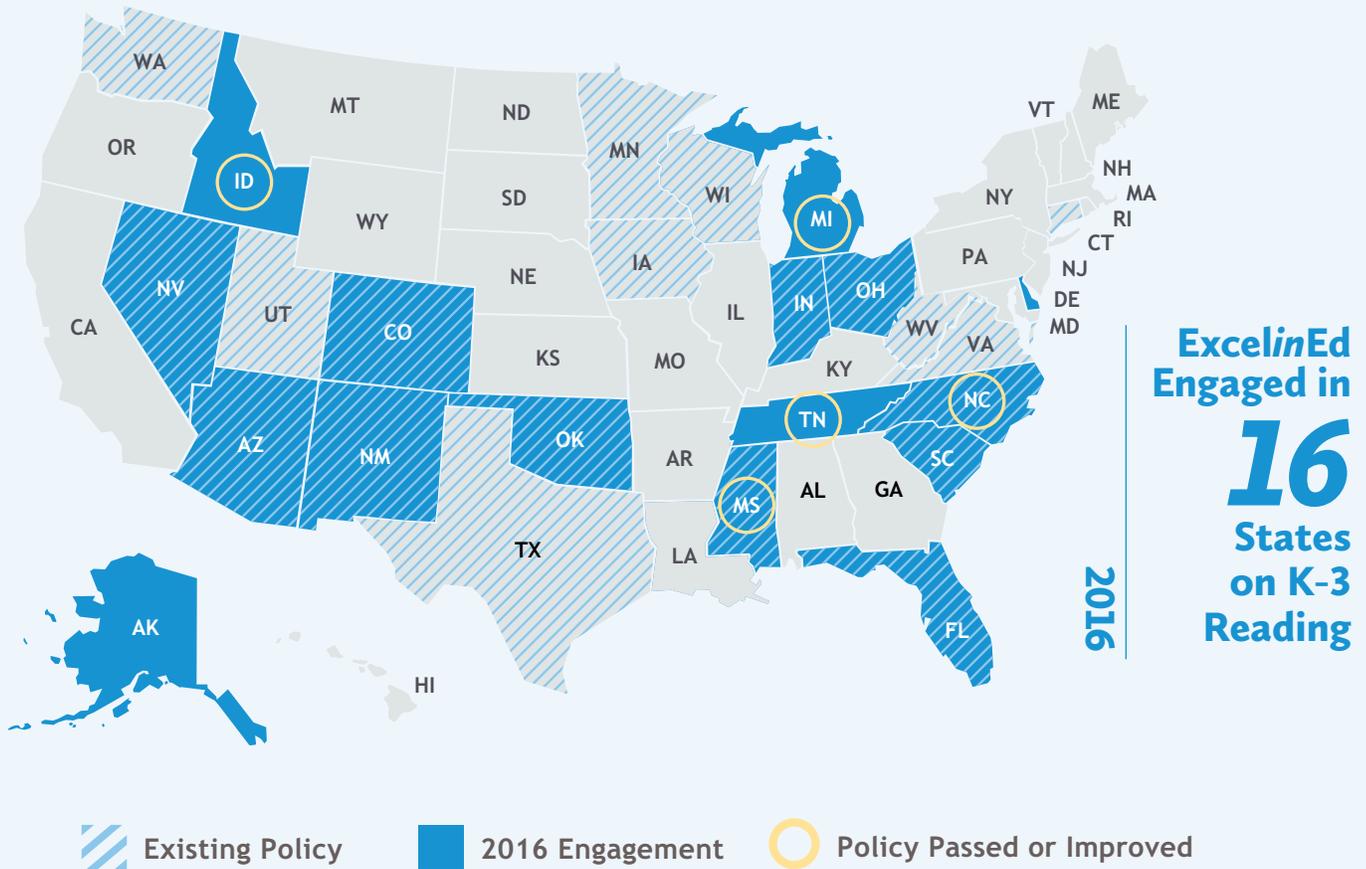
## State Actions

**Passed Policy:** Idaho, Michigan, Tennessee

**Improved Policy:** Mississippi, North Carolina

**Guided Implementation:** Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee

**Supported States:** Alaska, Delaware, New Mexico, Oklahoma



‘Existing Policy’ reflects states with K-3 Reading policies where ExcelinEd provided technical support or engagement through 2015. ‘Engagement’ reflects states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation in 2016. ‘Policy Passed or Improved’ reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve K-3 Reading in 2016.

## Resources

- Video:** [Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act](#)
- Video:** [Prioritizing Early Literacy in the Age of ESSA](#)
- Video:** [Reading Isn't Just Fundamental—It's Critical](#)

**Policy Summary:** [K-3 Reading: The Ability to Read Is the Gateway to Success](#)

# Putting Dollars Where They Matter

## Education Funding Reform

### Modernizing Education Funding

Reforming education spending—where dollars follow the child—can lead to a funding formula that promotes fairness, flexibility, accountability and innovation. Priorities for reform are:



Student-Centered State & District Funding



Financial Transparency



Fair Funding for School Choice



Competency-Based Funding

A reform that prioritizes each student's learning by funding education in a way that is equitable, transparent and promotes local empowerment and choice.

The way states fund student education can support forward-looking solutions or thwart progress with archaic and obsolete constraints. In many states, outdated funding formulas force districts to focus on inputs rather than the unique needs of each child. On the other hand, student-centered funding formulas are fair, transparent and promote local empowerment and choice. ExcelinEd supports student-centered funding that prioritizes each child's learning, where all students receive base funding—with additional amounts depending on student characteristics—and spending follows the child.

### Student-Centered Funding: A National Sample

Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University examined a sample of state budgets to analyze their student-based allocation formulas. The research illustrates the extreme variation of student-centered funding from state-to-state.

STATE	STUDENT-BASED ALLOCATION %
Colorado 	 83%
Florida 	 83%
Minnesota 	 77%
Rhode Island 	 61%
Georgia 	 38%
Ohio 	 33%
Illinois 	 18%
Tennessee 	 5%
Idaho 	 1%
Pennsylvania 	 0%

Source: Edunomics Lab; ExcelinEd for Florida only

“Student-centered funding opens the door for visionary changes to address the realities of modern classrooms. Through these reforms, states can create the flexibility for educational innovations and incentives that focus on what truly matters: equipping every student for success.”

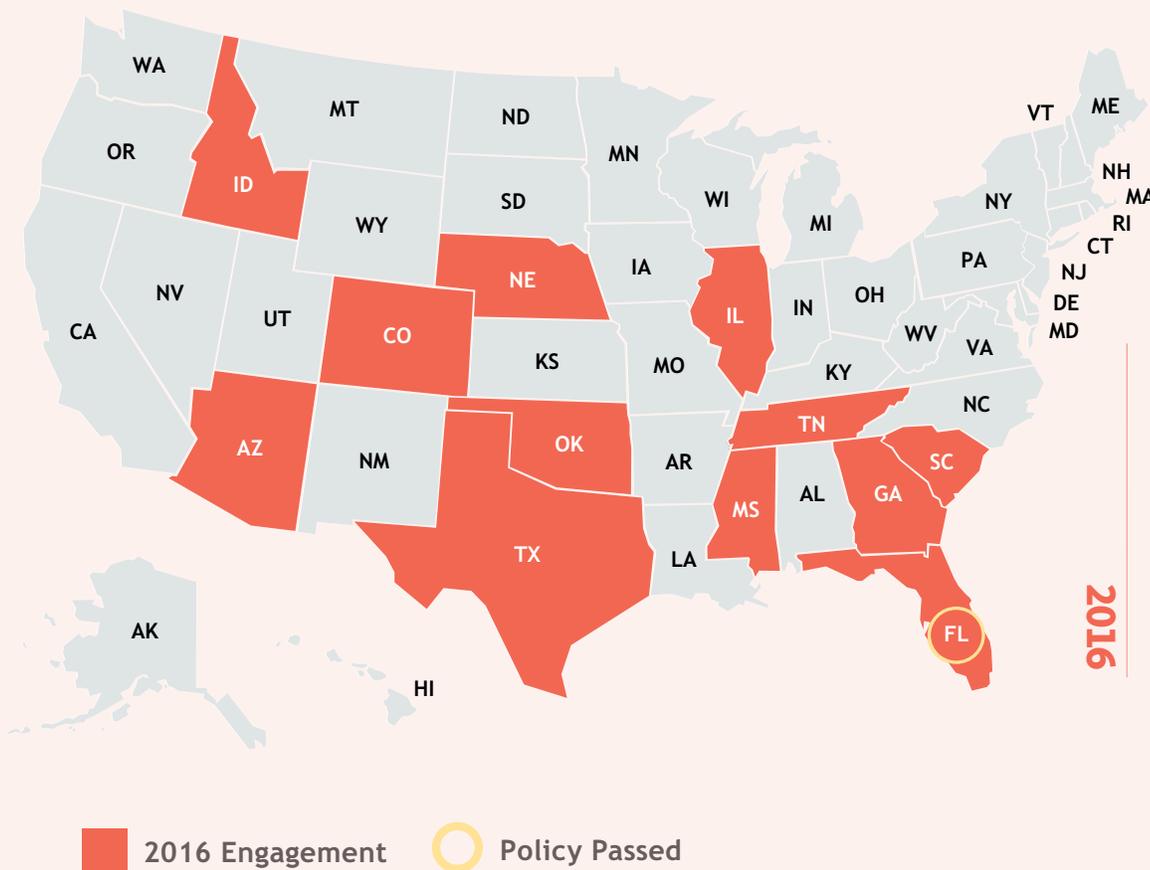


Patricia Levesque | CEO, ExcelinEd

## State Actions

**Passed Policy:** Florida

**Supported States:** Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas



‘Engagement’ reflects states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation in 2016. ‘Policy Passed’ reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve Education Funding Reform in 2016.

## Resources

- Video:** [How Should We Fund Education?](#)
- Video:** [Making the Switch to Student-Funded Education](#)

# Revolutionizing Educational Choice

## Education Scholarship Accounts

### Customized Educational Choice

Under a robust system of accountability (monitoring and auditing), parents can direct funds in an ESA to any combination of educational uses, including:



Tutoring



Exam Fees



Online Programs & Courses



Savings for Future College Costs



Contract Public School Courses



Private School Tuition



Therapy for Special Needs Students



Instructional Materials & Curriculum

The next generation of choice that empowers families with the financial freedom to choose the right school or learning environment for their child.

Since the first Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program was introduced in 2011, this policy has been changing education as we know it. ESAs place state dollars designated for a child's education into an account that parents can manage to cover the cost of customized learning. Account funds can cover multiple education options, including private school tuition, online education, tutoring and dual enrollment, and unused funds can be saved for future K-12 or higher education costs. ExcelinEd promotes the expansion of ESAs in states as a way for parents to care for their children's unique educational needs. ESAs create an entirely flexible approach to education, where the ultimate goal is personalizing education and maximizing each child's natural learning abilities.

### ESAs Empower Parents

A growing number of students are taking advantage of ESAs in early adopting states that are offering parents the opportunity to make the best education choices for their child.

From 2015 to 2016,  
**PARTICIPATION INCREASED**

**270%**

in Florida's Gardiner Scholarship

and

**118%**

in Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.

In 2016, ESA programs in Arizona, Florida and Mississippi served

**11,425 STUDENTS**

putting more than

**\$100 MILLION**

in the hands of parents.



*"I found a small private school specializing in children with learning challenges. Through the ESA, Gregory was able to attend this school and get the one-on-one help he needed so badly. To see the progress with his writing, reading, maturity and socialization skills—it has been like meeting a new child."*



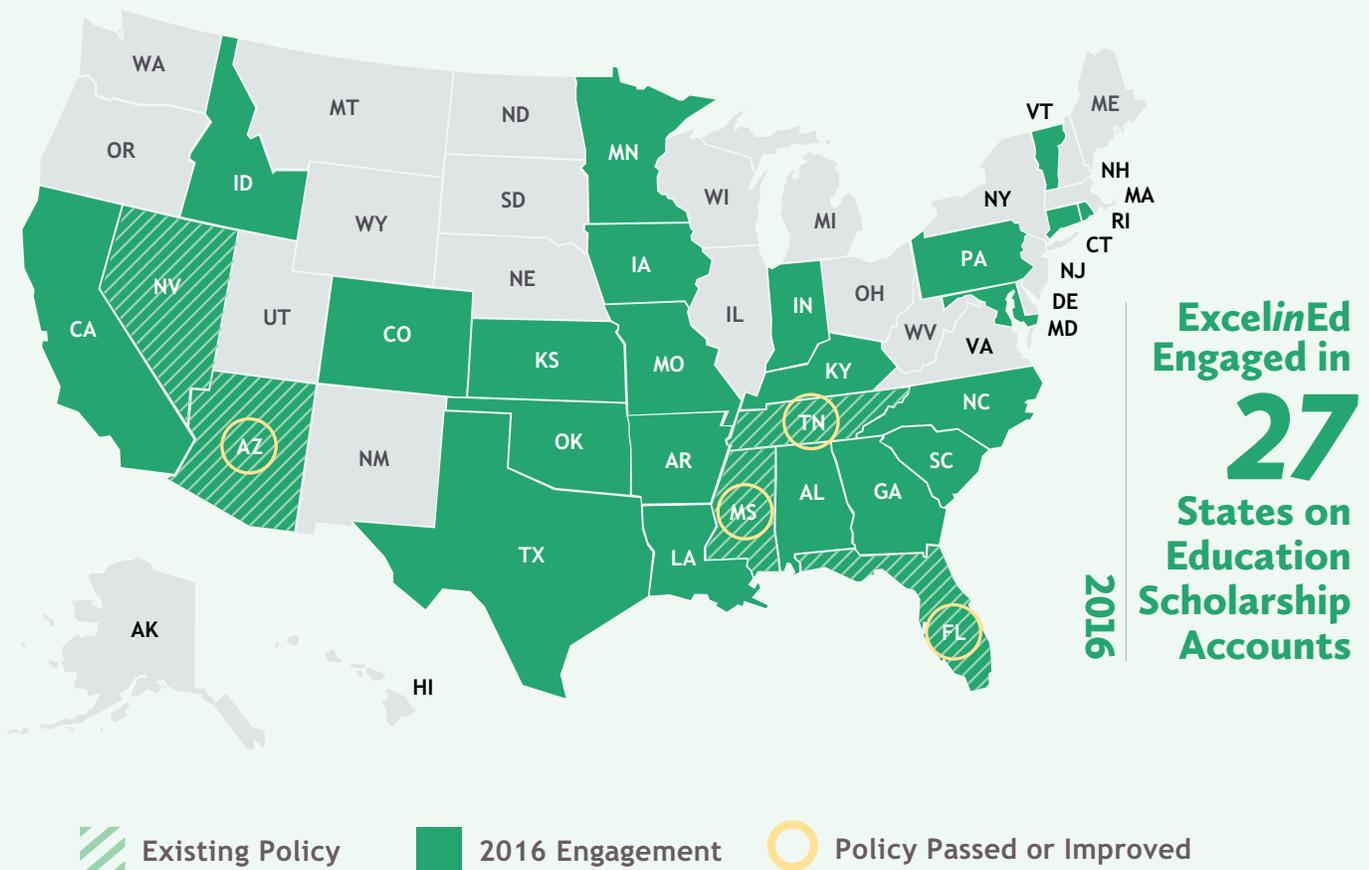
**Katie Swingle** | Florida Mother of Special Needs Student and Gardiner Scholarship Recipient

## State Actions

**Improved Policy:** Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee

**Guided Implementation:** Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, Tennessee

**Supported States:** Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont



'Existing Policy' reflects states with ESA policies where ExcelinEd provided technical support or engagement through 2015. 'Engagement' reflects states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation in 2016. 'Policy Passed or Improved' reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve ESAs in 2016.

## Resources

-  **Video:** [ESAs & the New Frontier in Educational Choice](#)
-  **Toolkit:** [ESAs: The Next Generation of Choice](#)

-  **Report:** [How to Recruit High-Performing Charter Management Organizations to a New Region: Results from the 2015 CMO Survey](#)
- Policy Summary:** [ESAs: Innovation and Customization](#)

# Preparing Students for a Global Economy

## College & Career Pathways

### Readying Our Future Workforce for Success

By better preparing high school students to enter today's workforce or meet the expectations of college coursework, states can provide enormous benefits to students, their parents, employers and our nation's economy. Proven principles that deliver results include:



**Financial Incentives for Results**



**Open Access & Opportunity**



**Information to Support Decisions**



**Accountability**

Policies that provide information, incentives and access to advanced courses and certifications to prepare students for higher education and the workforce.

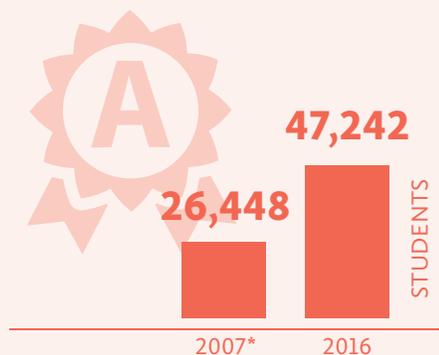
Our nation's failure to educate its students leaves many of them unprepared for the challenges they will face after high school, and this failure also threatens the country's ability to thrive in a global economy. ExcelinEd promotes comprehensive policies that create college and career pathways to best equip students for the rigors of the college classroom and the labor market. The model includes:

- Increasing students' access to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and dual enrollment courses and industry-certifications during high school.
- Rewarding schools and teachers for student success in earning college credit and industry certifications.
- Informing teachers, parents and students about college and career options through Economic Security Reports.

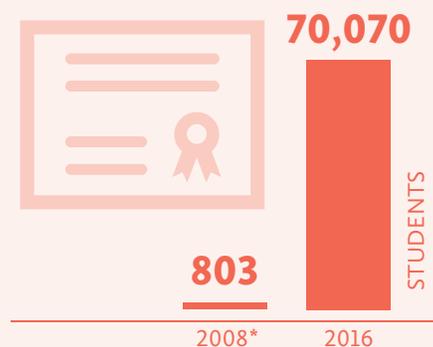
### More Florida Students Are Prepared for College & Career with Incentive Policies

Students Passing at Least One Advanced Placement Exam

Students Earning Industry Certification



**79% INCREASE**



**8,626% INCREASE**

\*Year prior to policy implementation.

Source: College Board and Florida Department of Education

“We must ensure our students are prepared for postsecondary success in our 21st-century economy. Whether a student pursues college or a career, policies that promote incentives for securing industry certifications or passing AP courses will help guarantee readiness for Minnesota’s students.”



**Representative Jenifer Loon** | Chair, Minnesota House of Representatives  
Education Finance Committee

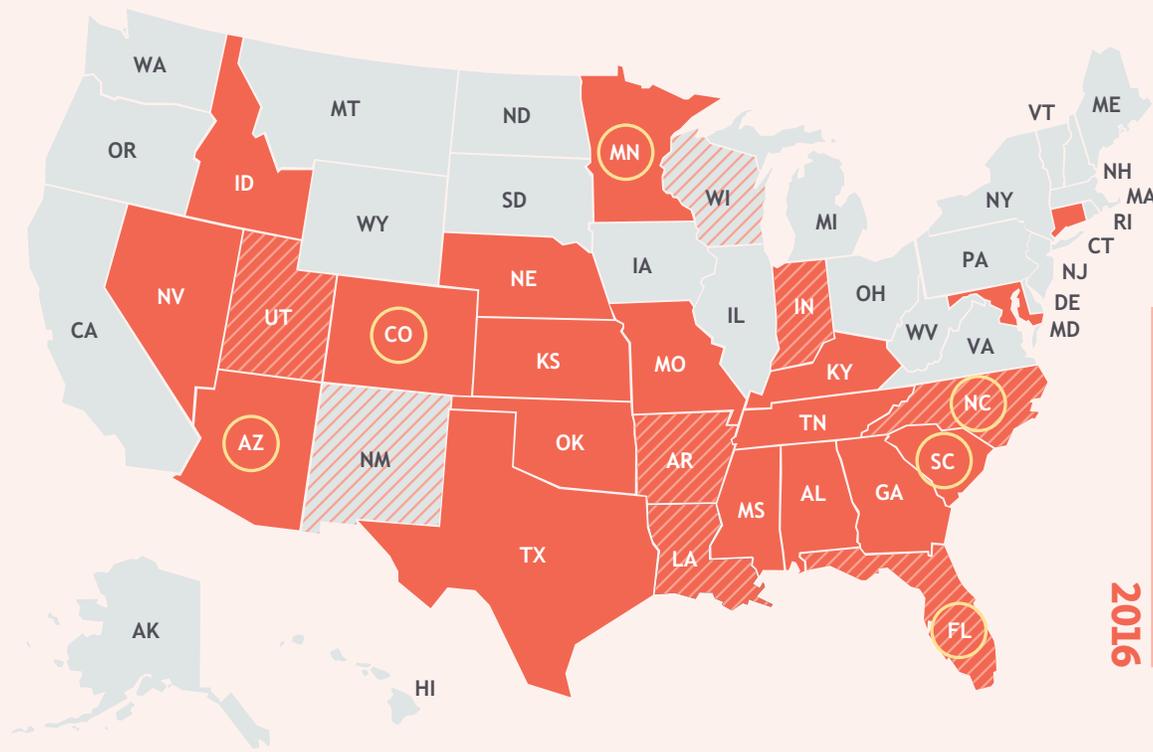
## State Actions

**Passed Policy:** Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina

**Improved Policy:** Florida

**Guided Implementation:** Arkansas

**Supported States:** Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah



**ExcelinEd  
Engaged in  
24  
States on  
College  
& Career  
Pathways  
2016**

Existing Policy    2016 Engagement    Policy Passed or Improved

‘Existing Policy’ reflects states with College & Career Pathways policies where ExcelinEd provided technical support or engagement through 2015. ‘Engagement’ reflects states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation in 2016. ‘Policy Passed or Improved’ reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve College & Career Pathways in 2016.

## Resources

**Video:** [College & Career Pathways: Being Workforce Ready](#)  
**Video:** [The High School Diploma is Woefully Inadequate](#)

**Policy Brief:** [Expanding Access to Advanced Coursework in Arizona High Schools](#)  
**Policy Summary:** [College and Career Readiness: Building a Global Workforce](#)

# Expanding Access and Equity

## Course Access

### Technology + Innovative Policy = Course Access

By coupling state-of-the-art technology with innovative policy, states can implement Course Access programs giving students access to a quality learning platform far beyond what was previously possible. Successful policies feature:



**Broad Student Eligibility**



**Course Quality & Variety**



**Accountability, Monitoring & State Review**



**Diversity in Course Format**



**Flexible & Sustainable Funding**



**State Education System Alignment**



**District & School Engagement**



**Parent Communication**

A technology-driven choice initiative that allows K-12 students to access quality courses regardless of location.

Access to a high-quality education no longer needs to depend on location. *ExcelinEd* promotes Course Access to connect students—wherever they may live—with a wide variety of quality instructors and courses. Course Access uses technology and innovative policy to offer a catalog of courses to students statewide. Families can select the best courses for their children from an online catalog of in-person, online and blended learning courses. From Advanced Placement to STEM and music courses, states can use Course Access to engage students like never before by offering their preferred courses in their preferred formats from effective, qualified teachers.

## First Year Success for New Course Access Program in Rhode Island

*In 2016, Rhode Island opened its Course Access program, the Advanced Coursework Network, to help districts and schools create opportunities for Rhode Island students to envision, pursue and realize their individualized graduation pathway.*

About **50%** of Rhode Island **SECONDARY SCHOOLS**  are participating in the **Advanced Coursework Network** with more than **800 ENROLLMENTS**  in the first year.

Students can choose from **120 COURSES** 

 offered by **14 PROVIDERS**, including:

Dual-Enrollment Courses at Local Colleges  
Advanced Placement Courses  
Career Preparation Courses  
Other Advanced Learning Opportunities

“Guthrie Virtual School provides a Course Access option to students and school districts across Texas. From Spanish I to Pathophysiology, our growing course catalog helps neighboring school districts offer students online courses for many hard-to-fill subject areas.”

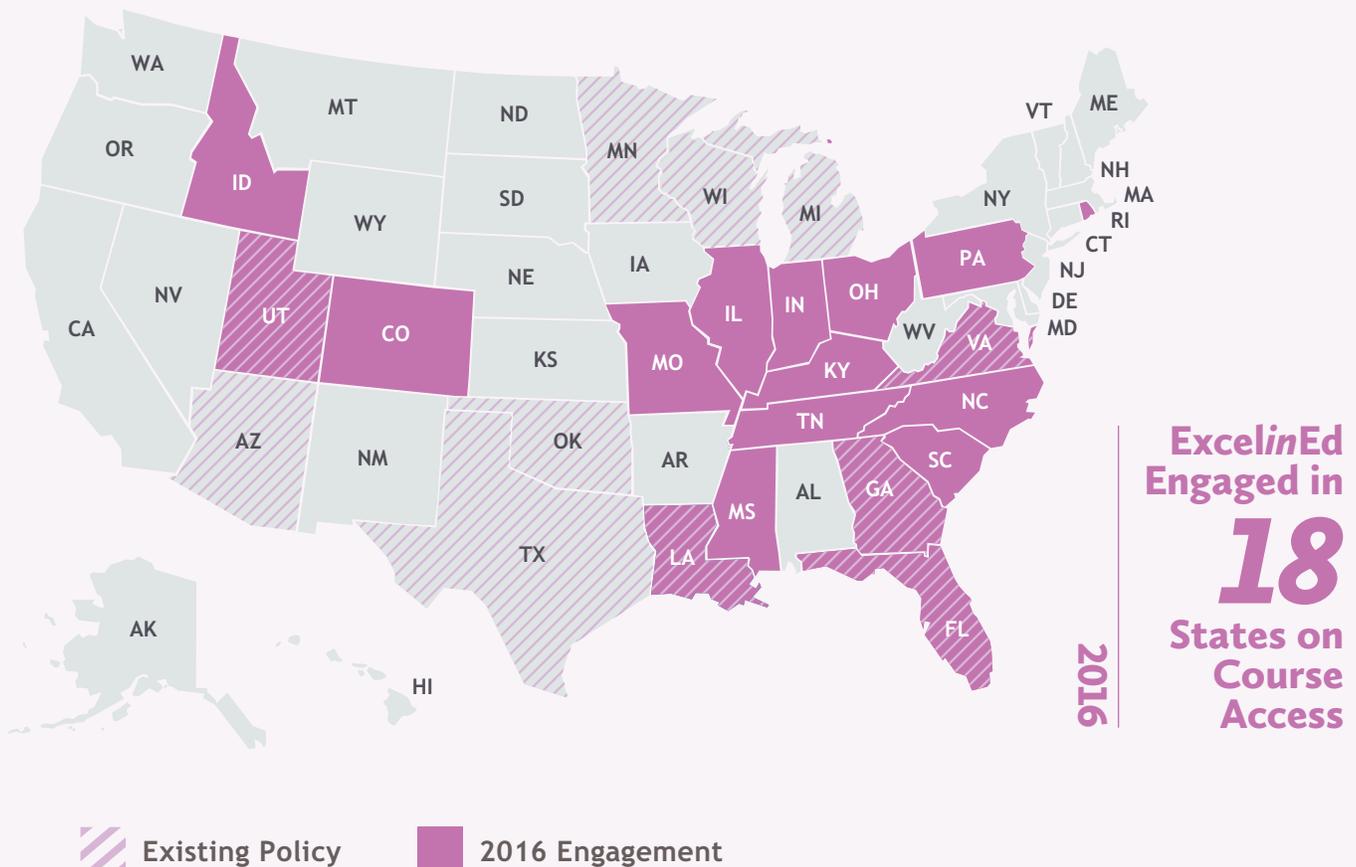


Summer Reel | Lead Teacher, Guthrie Virtual School

## State Actions

**Guided Implementation:** Rhode Island, Virginia

**Supported States:** Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah



‘Existing Policy’ reflects states with Course Access policies where ExcelsiEd provided technical support or engagement through 2015. ‘Engagement’ reflects states where ExcelsiEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation in 2016.

## Resources



**Video:** [Course Access: Fundamental Principles](#)  
**Video:** [The Perfect Match: Course Access & College and Career Readiness](#)



**Policy Brief:** [Leading in an Era of Change: Making the Most of State Course Access Opportunities](#)

# A Model for 21st-Century Learning

## Competency-Based Education

### Building the Foundation for a Personalized Education

A competency-based education system provides the foundation for personalized learning and creates the framework educators can use to meet students where they are. Key features of a successful competency-based education policy include:



Student-Centered Instruction



Anytime, Anywhere Learning



Assess When Ready



Progress Upon Mastery



Competency-Based Diplomas



Stakeholder Engagement

An innovative education model where students advance to higher levels of learning when they demonstrate mastery of concepts and skills—regardless of time, place or pace.

In a competency-based education system, an individual student progresses as learning expectations are met, rather than based on a predetermined curriculum schedule, seat-time or even student age. A student can accelerate through concepts and skills they have mastered while receiving more time and support in other areas. This approach comprehensively rethinks the instructional model and includes fundamental changes in schedules, calendars, assessment and grading.

ExcelinEd promotes competency-based education models to redesign education from a system where students advance based seat-time and passing grades to one that advances students when they are ready.

### Real Results of Competency-Based Learning

California's Lindsay Unified School District (LUSD) transitioned to a competency-based education system and saw immediate improvements in student learning.

LUSD learners (students) are predominantly from traditionally under-served populations.



Yet LUSD is seeing **GROWTH** and **SUCCESS** that outpaces state and national averages.



Graduation Rate

**82%** Overall  
Higher than the state average

**17%** Increase for English Learners

**35%** Increase for Learners with Disabilities



College Ready

**41%** Go to a Four-Year University  
Doubled since 2010

**55%** Passed an Advanced Placement Exam  
2.5 times the national rate

*"I am very confident in my learning now. I feel that I know what I'm doing, and I have all the resources that are going to help me accomplish all my goals."*

*Ikonkar Khalsa | Student, Lindsay High School, CA*

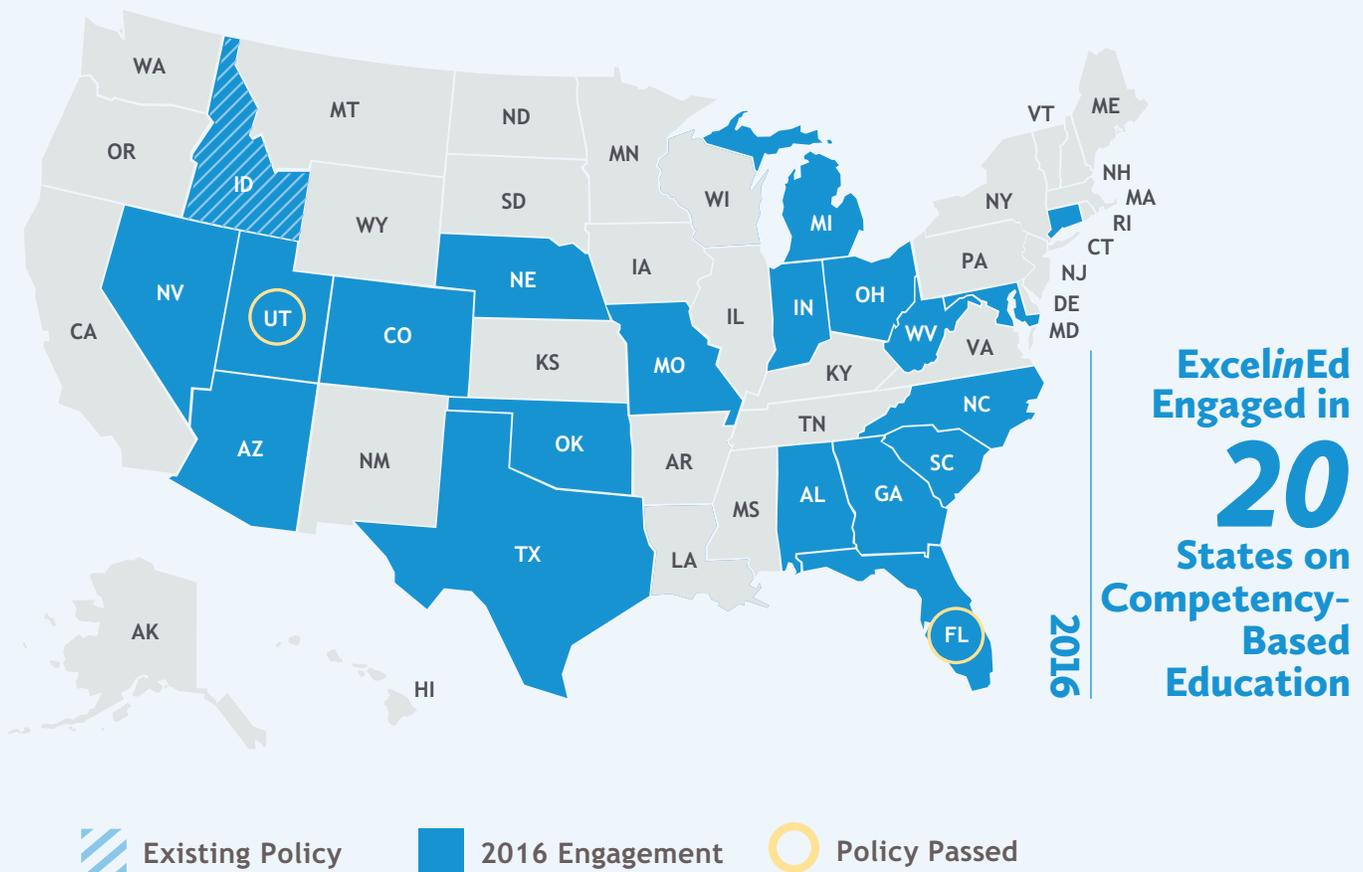


## State Actions

**Passed Policy:** *Florida, Utah*

**Guided Implementation:** *Florida, Idaho, Utah*

**Supported States:** *Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia*



'Existing Policy' reflects states with competency-based education policies where ExcelsinEd provided technical support or engagement through 2015. 'Engagement' reflects states where ExcelsinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation in 2016. 'Policy Passed' reflects states where ExcelsinEd in Action helped pass or improve competency-based education in 2016.

## Resources

**Video:** [Building Consensus for Personalized & Competency-Based Education](#)

**Toolkit:** [Competency-Based Education Communications Toolkit](#)

**Policy Summary:** [Competency-Based Education: Move on When Ready](#)  
**Whitepaper:** [Policy, Pilots and the Path to Competency-Based Education: A Tale of Three States](#)

# Returning Authority to the States

## The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

### Five Major Themes of ESSA

Passed with bipartisan support, ESSA reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and replaced a previous reauthorization, the No Child Left Behind Act.

**1 Shifts authority to states** for most education policy decisions, *but* the shift is not absolute.

**2 Includes new state flexibility** for school rating systems, goals and a system of school supports and interventions, *but* with limited federal guard rails.

**3 Preserves annual assessments**, *but* gives states an opportunity to audit, streamline and innovate.

**4 Gives states greater flexibility to direct federal funds** to state-determined priorities, *but* districts often have final say.

**5 Eliminates the teacher evaluation system** required under waivers, *but* states can choose to continue or refine their systems.

A shift in K-12 public education authority from the federal government to the states, creating new opportunities for states to develop innovative approaches that enhance school performance.

ESSA reduces the federal role in education and shifts more authority to states and school systems. When fully implemented, ESSA will affect every public school in the nation and more than 50 million students attending these schools. Since becoming law, states have begun developing ESSA-compliant accountability systems while simultaneously capitalizing on new opportunities to support state innovations.

## ESSA Support & Resources

*ExcelinEd helps state partners understand the new law and prepare to tackle new challenges and leverage new opportunities. In 2016, ExcelinEd:*

- Provided state-specific technical support and policy guidance to partners in 25 states.
- Created two robust ESSA Playbooks and a Model Accountability Framework.
- Launched #AskExcelinEd—an interactive Q&A email series.
- Presented on a range of ESSA-related topics on more than 30 occasions to national and state-based groups.
- Hosted six ESSA-related keynotes and panels at the 2016 National Summit.
- Led a five-part webinar series on ESSA and what it means for states.



*"Over the past year, ExcelinEd has provided thoughtful and innovative approaches to demonstrating how our A-F school accountability system meets the new requirements of ESSA, as well as how to incorporate minor adjustments to the calculation to ensure federal approval."*

**Dr. Carey Wright** | State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education

“ESSA provides both challenges and opportunities for a state like Georgia. Throughout our analysis and plan development work, the ExcelinEd team has provided high-quality resources and invaluable, on-the-ground support, helping us to maintain our commitment to rigorous A-F school accountability and develop a thoughtful, balanced approach to school turnaround.”



**Martha Ann Todd** | Executive Director, Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement

## Reimagining School Report Cards

ESSA provides states with an opportunity to reinvent their school report cards as a 21st-century, easy-to-use tool for empowering parents and students. In fact, ESSA requires states to develop school report cards that display the results of their school accountability systems and a wider array of school-level data.

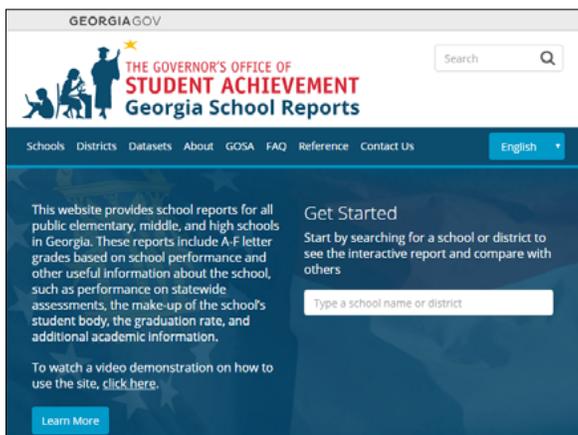
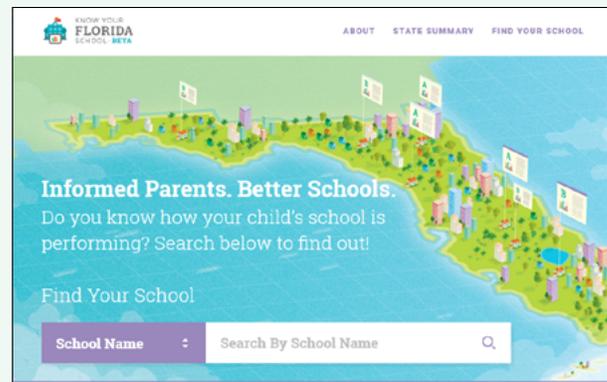
Today, more than ever before, states have an opportunity to provide critical information on school performance in a parent-friendly format. Ambitious states can meet the requirements of ESSA while transforming their state's school report card with a user-friendly design that includes tools to help parents understand, interpret and use complex school data.

### KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

- A user-friendly mobile-first design that clearly portrays school data.
- Thoughtfully organized data exhibits that promote understanding and encourage interaction.
- Clean and bias-free data presented with context and explanation.
- Ongoing engagement with a focus on parents.

### KNOW YOUR SCHOOL PROJECT

To help support states, ExcelinEd began developing *KnowYourFloridaSchool.org* as a live prototype and model online school report card using Florida's data. The prototype and the accompanying resources being created exemplify innovative best practices and strategies for achieving excellence in public reporting. The tool was built through an open-source development process with readily available code. Access to the design and development tools could give states a head start toward public reporting that reflects their priorities and school data.



### Georgia School Report Card Spotlight

In 2016, Georgia reimagined its school report card and released the state's first annual A-F school grades at *SchoolGrades.Georgia.gov*. The interactive website allows everyone to see how local schools are performing, view past performance, compare school performance and download results.

# By the Numbers

*Transforming Lives Through Education*



**193**   
Years of Collective  
Professional  
Experience

**8**   
Staff with  
Experience Teaching  
in K-12 Classrooms

**51%**   
of Staff Have Worked for a  
Governor, State Legislature or a  
State Education Agency

"We cannot have an America where your circumstances at birth determine your lifetime destiny, but that is the America we see looming on the horizon. The battle for educational equality is the challenge of our generation. The extent to which we succeed not only determines the success of the next generation but also the very cohesiveness of our social fabric."



Dr. Condoleezza Rice | Board Member, ExcelsinEd



**425**

Press Releases,  
News Stories and Media Hits



**11.8 MILLION**

Digital Campaign  
Impressions



**6.8 MILLION**

Reach through  
Social Media



**180,000**

ExcelsinEd.org  
Users



**1.5 MILLION**

Reach through  
Eblasts



**3,900**

EdPolicy Leaders Online  
Engaged Enrollees



**207**

ESSA Webinar  
Attendees



**20**

ESSA Resources  
Created



**23**

States Supported  
on ESSA

**333** 

Trips to Support  
States

**287** 

Days on the  
Road

**423,340** 

Miles Traveled

# Convening the Nation's Leaders

2016 National Summit on Education Reform



ExcelinEd's ninth annual National Summit on Education Reform drew more than 1,000 reform-minded attendees to Washington, D.C. on November 30 through December 2. National leaders, state policymakers, advocacy organizations and education stakeholders convened to address the policies and best practices so critical to improving education across the nation.

## In Their Own Words

*"We enjoyed the National Summit and all it had to offer. I remain excited with the energy shown to help those that are underserved."*

**Frank Gettridge**  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

*"I arrived with a weak background in ed policy, and I left with a solid foundation in the major reform areas."*

**Representative Frank White**  
State of Florida

*"The conference is a highlight of the year for me...far and away the best conference out there on education issues."*

**Todd Scott**  
Missouri Governor's Office

*"I'm still thinking about your wonderful conference in Washington, D.C. It was so inspirational with many takeaways. [For a monthly column], I highlighted your conference encouraging the 'Go Big, Go Bold' message. Excellent job!"*

**Joyce Rankin**  
Colorado State Board of Education



# 2016 National Summit on Education Reform

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



ExcelinEd's Chairman, Governor Jeb Bush, opened the Summit with a memorable keynote advocating for bold action on behalf of America's children. Dr. Condoleezza Rice engaged past U.S. Secretaries of Education in a stimulating discussion on federal policy. Other keynotes included Dr. Angela Duckworth speaking on the power of perseverance, Dr. Todd Rose exploring the end of average, a conversation with Sal Khan and David Coleman on leveling the playing field, and Diane Tavenner sharing her vision for redesigning education. A dozen strategy sessions replete with experts covered topics ranging from school choice and personalized education to early literacy, student-centered funding and college and career readiness.



## #EIE16 HIGHLIGHTS



**1,045** ATTENDEES  
from **47** States

A NEW RECORD



**9 COUNTRIES**  
and 333 VIEWERS  
Via Live Webcast

**94%** of ATTENDEES RATED #EIE16

- "A" (OUTSTANDING)
- or
- "B" (ABOVE AVERAGE)



**4,643**  
#EIE16 TWEETS  
and 20.1 MILLION IMPRESSIONS



**7,300**  
YouTube Video VIEWS



**35,000**  
Facebook REACH  
and 17.6k Live Video VIEWS

**698**

#EIE16 App USERS  
and 21k ENGAGEMENTS





# STATE PROFILE ALABAMA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
School Choice Tax Credit Scholarships	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPLEMENT
College & Career Pathways Industry Certifications	Leading Partner Organization	PASS*
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Leading Partner Organization	PASS**
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
Student Data Privacy	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT

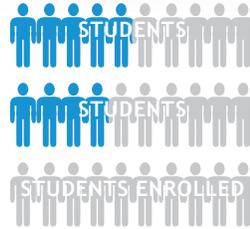
■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

\*Industry Certifications: Funding for industry certification programs was appropriated to postsecondary rather than K-12; no incentives tied to the funding.

\*\*Economic Security Report: Alabama Department of Education tabled administrative creation of the report.

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

730,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



52%  
Low-income

44%  
Minority

1%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

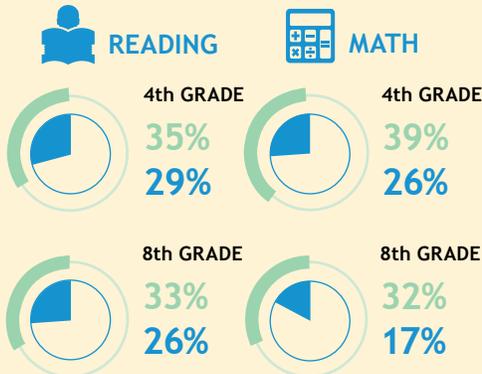
2010 60% vs. 2030 79%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

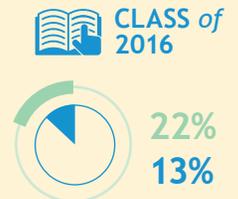
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"I'm hopeful to see ESA legislation finally passed in Alabama, opening more opportunities for parents and children. It's past time that we stop looking at the system and turn our focus to the needs of the child. To help even one child who has a special need can be the difference between an average life or a life lived to its fullest potential."



**Representative Ken Johnson**  
Education Scholarship Account Bill Sponsor

# STATE PROFILE ARIZONA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
K-3 Reading  
Education Scholarship Accounts  
Course Access

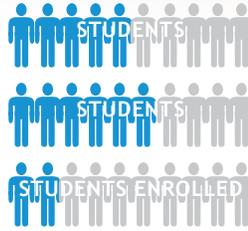
## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPLEMENT/IMPROVE
Assessments	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPLEMENT/PROTECT
K-3 Reading	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPLEMENT
Education Funding Reform	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/IMPROVE
College & Career Pathways AP/IB Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	PASS
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
Student Data Privacy	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

1.12 MILLION+ TOTAL STUDENTS



47%  
Low-income

61%  
Minority

24%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

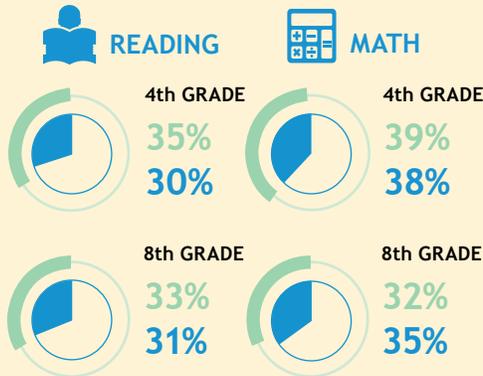
2010 65% vs. 2030 87%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

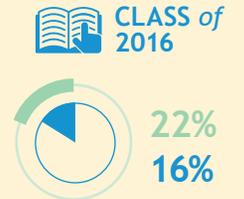
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ ARIZONA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"We are proud to have played a role in advancing legislation that encourages schools to work hard to graduate more students with college credit. It means that more Arizona students will graduate not only with a high school diploma, but with a clear path toward completing college ready to enter our workforce. It's a great deal for students, schools and taxpayers."



**Glenn Hamer**  
President, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

# STATE PROFILE ARKANSAS



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



**A-F School Grading  
College & Career Pathways**

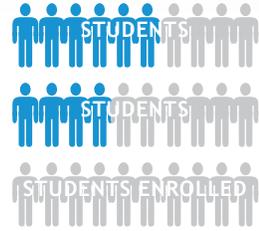
## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	<b>IMPROVE*</b>
School Choice Vouchers	Leading Partner Organization	<b>IMPLEMENT</b>
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	<b>DEVELOP</b>
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Leading Partner Organization	<b>IMPLEMENT</b>

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

\*A-F School Grading: Legislature adopted a one-year pause for issuing school grades.

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS 476,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



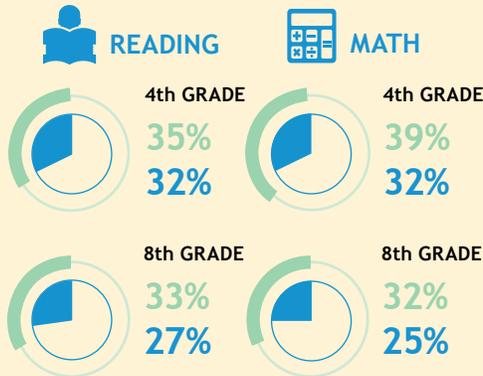
## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 63% vs. 2030 80%

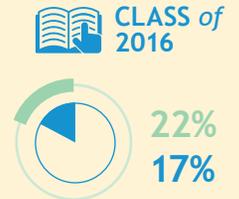


[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP) 2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ ARKANSAS

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"The Succeed Scholarship for students with special needs, in its first year, is already providing greater opportunities for those parents and students who need it most. We owe every child no matter their disability an opportunity for a great academic or tailored life-skills education, and that's exactly what we are doing in Arkansas."*



**Representative Douglas House**  
Succeed Scholarship Bill Sponsor

# STATE PROFILE COLORADO

## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



K-3 Reading

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
K-3 Reading	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT/ IMPLEMENT
Education Funding Reform	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Charter Schools	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPROVE
School Choice Tax Credit Scholarships	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS*
College & Career Pathways AP Computer Science Incentives	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS
Student Data Privacy	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
Teacher Quality	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

\*Tax Credit Scholarships: Legislation was not successful.

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

898,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



42%  
Low-income



46%  
Minority



11%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 55% vs. 2030 72%

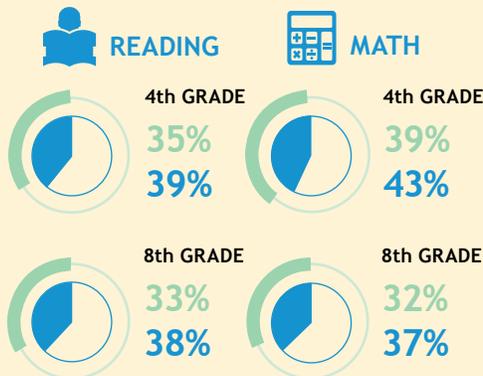


+17%

[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

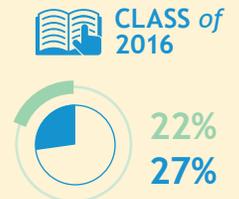
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ COLORADO

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"When it comes to creating more high-quality educational options for our kids, we need to ensure that we have the land and buildings necessary to open new schools. Opening up critical resources for our public charter schools is essential to their long term success."

Governor John Hickenlooper



# STATE PROFILE CONNECTICUT

## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



K-3 Reading

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways <i>Economic Security Report</i>	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP*
Digital Learning	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP*
Student Data Privacy	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

\*College & Career Pathways and Digital Learning: Ongoing through the implementation of federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

541,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



38%  
Low-income



44%  
Minority



1%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 59% vs. 2030 78%

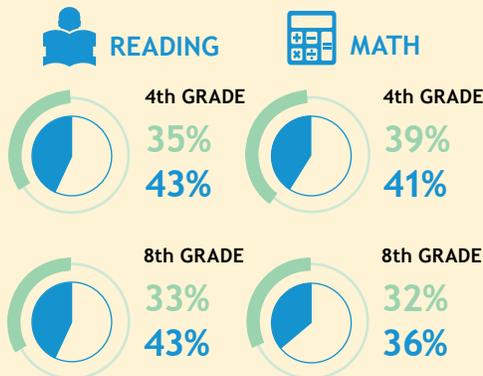


+19%

[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

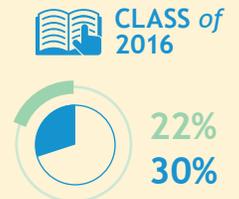
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ CONNECTICUT

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"Time is the constant; we've got them for 13 years, and how much they learn is the variable. We need to switch that and make learning the constant and time the variable so kids get the time they need to learn what they need to learn."*



**Joseph Cirsuolo**  
Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents

# STATE PROFILE FLORIDA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



**A-F School Grading**  
**K-3 Reading**  
**Education Scholarship Accounts**  
**College & Career Pathways**  
**Course Access**

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Leading Partner Organization	PROTECT
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPROVE*
Education Funding Reform <i>Fiscal Transparency</i>	Leading Partner Organization	PASS
School Choice <i>Charter Schools</i>	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPROVE
School Choice <i>Public School Choice</i>	Leading Partner Organization	PASS
School Choice <i>Tax Credit Scholarships, Vouchers, ESAs</i>	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPLEMENT/ IMPROVE
College & Career Pathways <i>APIIB/Industry Certification Incentives</i>	Leading Partner Organization	IMPROVE
Competency-Based Education	Leading Partner Organization	PASS/ IMPLEMENT
Course Access	Leading Partner Organization	IMPROVE*
Digital Learning	Leading Partner Organization	IMPROVE

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

\*K-3 Reading and Course Access: Legislation passed the House but was not successful in the Senate.

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

**2.79 MILLION+** TOTAL STUDENTS



## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

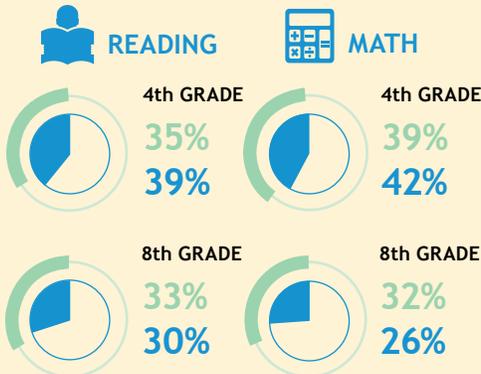
2010 63% vs. 2030 89%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

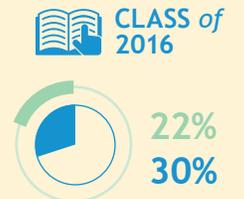
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ FLORIDA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"Florida's education system is student centered. We believe the education system exists to serve the student, not the other way around. We also maintain that parents are the first and primary educators of their children; their educational choices should be respected and empowered. Florida has a nearly two decades-long track record of raising student achievement and ensuring that all students, regardless of zip code, have a chance to realize their full potential."*



**Senate President Joe Negron**

# STATE PROFILE GEORGIA



## ExcelInEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
Course Access

## ExcelInEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/IMPROVE
Assessments	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
Education Funding Reform <i>Funding Formula, Fiscal Transparency*</i>	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
School Choice <i>Education Scholarship Accounts</i>	Leading Partner Organization	PASS
School Choice <i>Charter Schools</i>	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPROVE/PROTECT
School Choice <i>Opportunity School District</i>	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS**
School Choice <i>Tax Credit Scholarships</i>	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways <i>AP/IB/Industry Cert. Incentives, Economic Security Report</i>	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
Teacher Quality	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

\*Fiscal Transparency: Passed as part of a larger bill; legislation was vetoed due to concerns about the underlying bill unrelated to Fiscal Transparency provisions.

\*\*Opportunity School District: Failed on the November 2016 Ballot.

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

1.69 MILLION+ TOTAL STUDENTS



62%  
Low-income



59%  
Minority



5%  
Choice

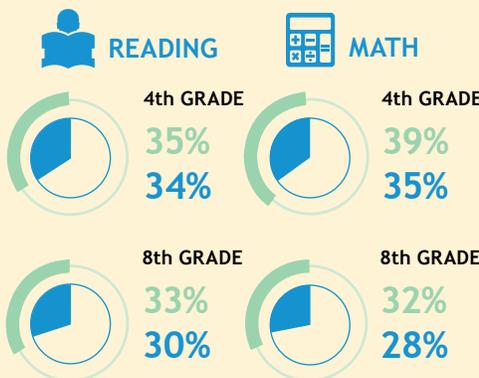
## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 57% vs. 2030 73%

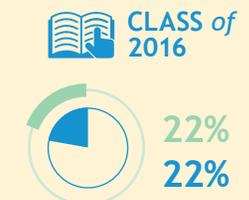


[www.ExcelInEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelInEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP) 2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) Students Scoring 3 or Higher



## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"The inaugural Educate Georgia Summit brought together more than 300 state officials, educators, parents, students and business and community leaders to discuss the current challenges and future solutions for education in our state. We were excited to have ExcelInEd's Patricia Levesque with us to share national trends and best practices with our attendees!"



Representative Valencia Stovall

# STATE PROFILE IDAHO



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



### Competency-Based Education

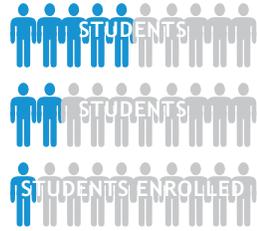
## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	<b>PASS</b>
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Supporting In-State Partners	<b>DEVELOP</b>
College & Career Pathways AP/IB Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	<b>DEVELOP</b>
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	<b>DEVELOP</b>
Competency-Based Education	Leading Partner Organization	<b>IMPLEMENT</b>

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

294,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

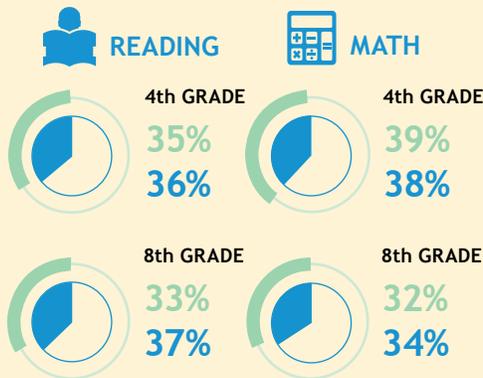
2010 66% vs. 2030 75%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

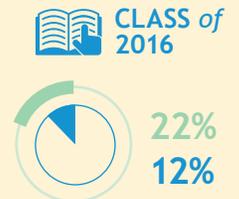
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ IDAHO

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"The ability to read is the gateway to success in academics and in life. Idaho's innovative early literacy initiative equips Idaho students with necessary reading skills by the end of the third grade and provides students with a strong foundation to achieve success."*

**Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter**



# STATE PROFILE ILLINOIS



## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
Education Funding Reform	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP*
Course Access	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

\*Industry Certification Incentives: Unsuccessful due to state budget impasse.

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

2.04 MILLION+ TOTAL STUDENTS



50%  
Low-income



51%  
Minority



17%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

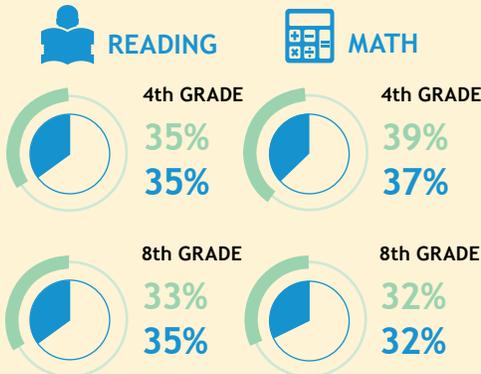
2010 59% vs. 2030 73%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

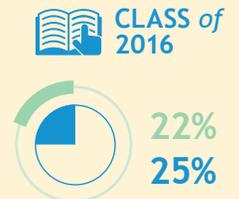
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ ILLINOIS

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"With ExcelinEd's support, One Chance Illinois developed the Untapped Potential policy initiative to increase the identification of low-income, high-ability children. Legislation signed by Governor Rauner in 2016 led to the development of a new, national organization named the Untapped Potential Project, which expands the strategy into new populations with unique abilities and creates a refresh for how we approach education policy."



**Myles X. Mendoza**  
Founder, Untapped Potential Project

# STATE PROFILE INDIANA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
K-3 Reading  
College & Career Pathways

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
Assessments	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT*
K-3 Reading	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT/IMPLEMENT
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

\*Assessments: Legislature enacted a work group to propose recommendations for 2017 consideration.

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

1.13 MILLION+ TOTAL STUDENTS



45%  
Low-income



30%  
Minority



12%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

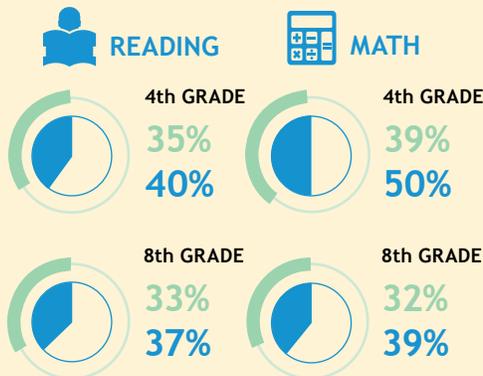
2010 61% vs. 2030 76%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

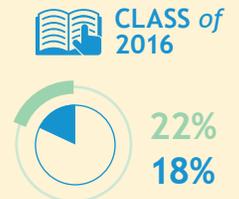
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ INDIANA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"As a national leader in K-12 education reform, Indiana will continue to make students our priority by focusing on policies that further expand quality educational options for all students, maintain strong and meaningful assessment and accountability systems, and attract and retain the best and brightest to the teaching profession."*



**Betsy Wiley**  
President and CEO, Institute for Quality Education

# STATE PROFILE KENTUCKY

UNITED WE STAND



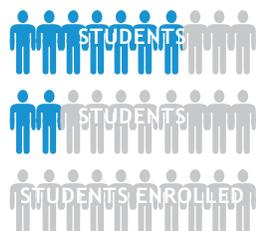
## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Charter Schools	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Tax Credit Scholarships	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways AP/IB Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

655,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

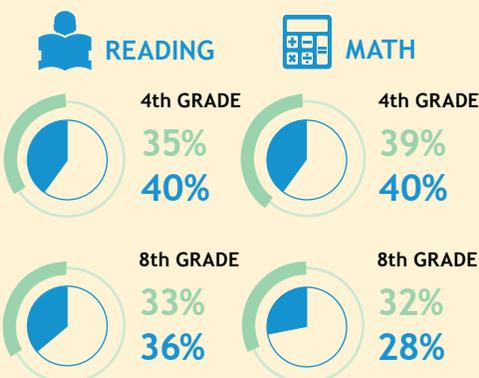
2010 59% vs. 2030 74%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

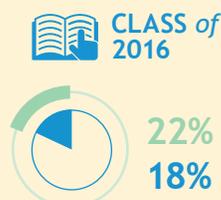
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"We worked with ExcelinEd and Kentucky policymakers to combine an ESA bill for special needs students with legislation that would create a scholarship tax credit program for low-income students. The result is a new hybrid choice proposal unlike anything else in the nation, and we're looking forward to it becoming reality!"



**Julia Crigler**  
State Director, Americans for Prosperity Kentucky

# STATE PROFILE LOUISIANA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



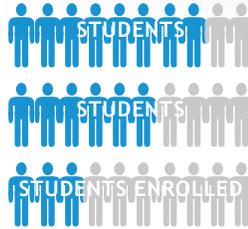
A-F School Grading  
College & Career Pathways  
Course Access

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
Assessments	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Charter Schools	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
School Choice Public School Choice	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Vouchers	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS  
722,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



82%  
Low-income

55%  
Minority

26%  
Choice

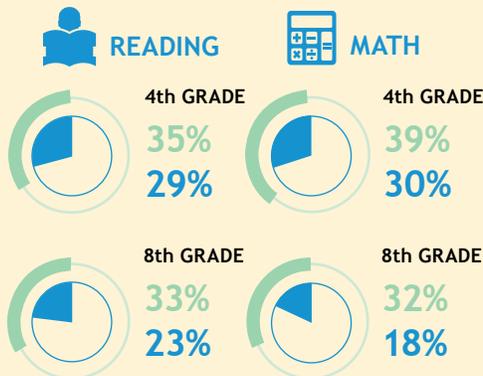
AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO  
2010 59% vs. 2030 77%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

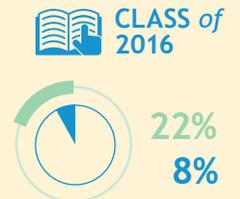
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ LOUISIANA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"Louisiana's educational choice programs have empowered thousands of low-income families to choose the school that best meets their child's unique needs. Those choices, coupled with the state's high expectations for participating schools, have proven to be effective strategies for providing all children with equitable access to a great education and lifelong opportunity."*



**John White**  
Louisiana State Superintendent of Education

# STATE PROFILE MICHIGAN



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



Course Access

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT/DEVELOP
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	PASS

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

1.54 MILLION+ TOTAL STUDENTS



46%  
Low-income



33%  
Minority



9%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 60% vs. 2030 73%

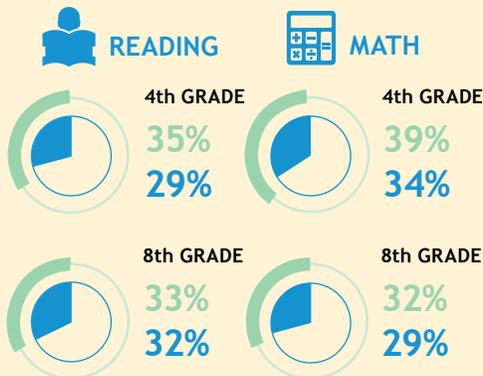


+13%

[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

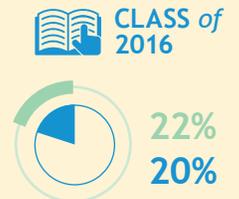
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ MICHIGAN

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

“Michigan’s Third Grade Reading Legislation was the result of a bipartisan, bicameral workgroup that received extensive input from numerous stakeholder groups. We relied heavily on ExcelinEd for their research and first-hand experience implementing this legislation in other states. The legislation has focused needed attention on Michigan’s performance in literacy and created intense interest in improving outcomes for our children.”



**Representative Amanda Price**  
Third Grade Reading Bill Sponsor

# STATE PROFILE MINNESOTA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



**K-3 Reading  
Course Access**

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Tax Credit Scholarships	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways AP/IB Incentives	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

**864,000+** TOTAL STUDENTS



**38%**  
Low-income



**31%**  
Minority



**36%**  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

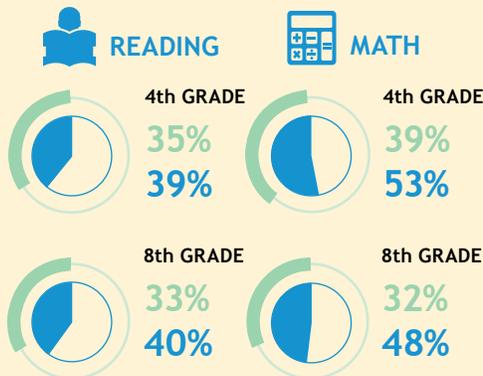
2010 59% vs. 2030 75%



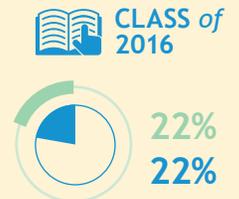
**+16%**

[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP) 2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ MINNESOTA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"As a parent and former teacher, I believe students do better when families are empowered to choose the education options that work best for their child. Providing every student with the opportunity for a world-class education is one of my top priorities as a legislator, and to do that means implementing innovative reforms to improve student learning, expanding school choice and putting parents in the driver's seat of their child's education."*



**Representative Kelly Fenton**  
Education Scholarship Accounts Bill Sponsor

# STATE PROFILE MISSISSIPPI



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
K-3 Reading  
Education Scholarship Accounts

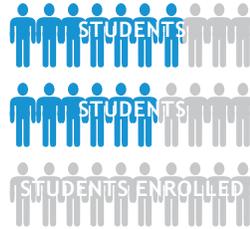
## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/ PROTECT
Proficiency Cut Scores	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/ PROTECT/ IMPROVE
Education Funding Reform	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/ IMPROVE
School Choice Charter Schools	Leading Partner Organization	IMPROVE
School Choice Tax Credit Scholarships	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

486,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



74%  
Low-income

55%  
Minority

0%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

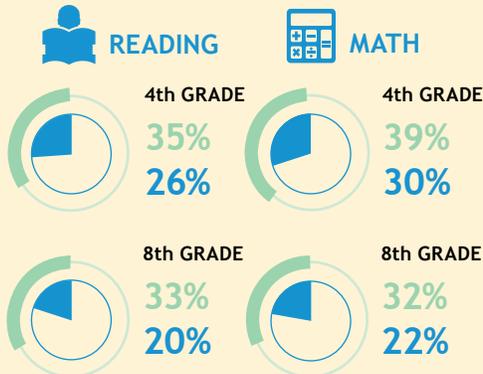
2010 62% vs. 2030 77%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

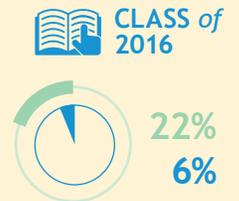
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ MISSISSIPPI

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"School choice exists in Mississippi through parochial or private schools or by moving to another school district. Not everyone can afford those choices; we fought to provide public charter schools for families with limited options. Public charters can work alongside traditional avenues of public education to give all students an opportunity at success."



Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves

# STATE PROFILE MISSOURI



## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
School Choice <i>Education Scholarship Accounts</i>	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways <i>Industry Certification Incentives</i>	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
Course Access	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

885,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



52%  
Low-income



28%  
Minority



2%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 61% vs. 2030 77%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



READING



MATH



4th GRADE  
35%  
36%



4th GRADE  
39%  
38%



8th GRADE  
33%  
36%



8th GRADE  
32%  
31%

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ MISSOURI

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*“Charter school expansion in Missouri will provide an additional opportunity for parents and students to meet the unique needs of their students. Expanding parental choice with charter school options encourages parental involvement by allowing them to better shape an educational experience that meets the individual needs of their students. In addition, charter school expansion in Missouri will be an incentive to encourage innovation, efficiency and excellence in traditional public schools throughout the state.”*



**Representative Rebecca Roeber**

# STATE PROFILE NEVADA

## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



**K-3 Reading Education Scholarship Accounts**

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

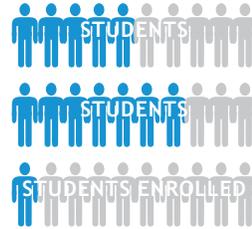
POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/ PROTECT*
School Choice Tax Credit Scholarships	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPLEMENT
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
Competency-Based Education	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

\*Education Scholarship Accounts: Law was challenged in Nevada Supreme Court by special interests. While the law was deemed constitutional, funding for the program was not upheld.

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

**468,000+** TOTAL STUDENTS



**49%**  
Low-income

**66%**  
Minority

**6%**  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

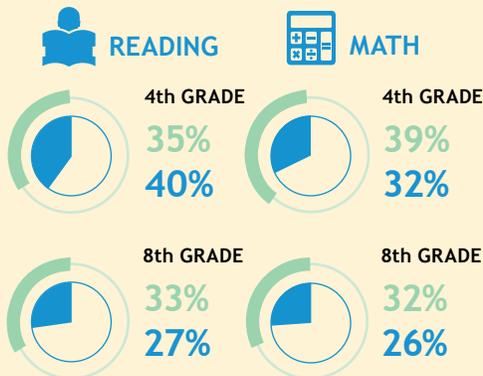
2010 58% vs. 2030 78%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

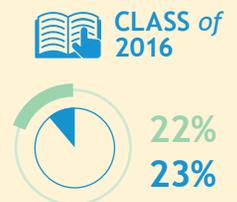
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ NEVADA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"I believe Nevada parents have the right to find the best educational pathway for their child, and I believe Nevada students deserve to learn in an environment where they can thrive. I wholeheartedly support Education Savings Accounts because the program empowers parents with choice and innovation and opens doors for students to achieve academic success."



**Governor Brian Sandoval**

# STATE PROFILE NORTH CAROLINA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



**A-F School Grading**  
**K-3 Reading**  
**College & Career Pathways**

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPROVE*
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/IMPROVE
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Charter Schools	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPROVE**
School Choice Vouchers	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPROVE
College & Career Pathways AP/IB/Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	PASS
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Leading Partner Organization	PASS
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
Student Data Privacy	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPROVE/PROTECT

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

\*A-F School Grading: Issue deferred by the Legislature until 2017.

\*\*Charter Schools: Funding improvements passed in the House, but were not included in the final budget.

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

**1.54 MILLION+** TOTAL STUDENTS



**52%**  
Low-income



**47%**  
Minority



**5%**  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 58% vs. 2030 75%

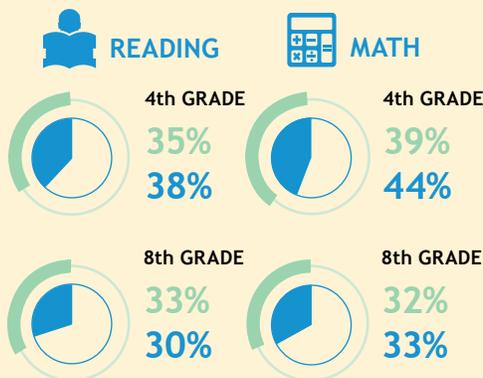


**+17%**

[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

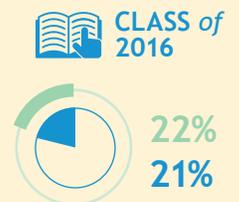
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ NORTH CAROLINA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"Understanding the challenges and solutions that are reshaping the landscape of education as we know it has never been more important. That's why we were proud to partner with ExcelinEd on a landmark report forecasting the future of North Carolina education, and to share it with more than 100 legislators, business leaders, education reformers and others."*



### Darrell Allison

President, Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina

# STATE PROFILE OHIO



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
K-3 Reading

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY                      OUR ROLE                      GOAL

K-3  
Reading



**IMPLEMENT**

School Choice  
Vouchers



**IMPROVE\***

■ SUCCESS    ■ ONGOING    ■ FAILED

\*Vouchers: No progress made in addressing an oversight from the 2015 Legislative Session that negatively impacted Ohio's voucher laws.

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

1.68 MILLION+ TOTAL STUDENTS



50%  
Low-income



29%  
Minority



10%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 61% vs. 2030 76%



+15%

[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP) 2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



READING



MATH



4th GRADE

35%  
38%



4th GRADE

39%  
45%



8th GRADE

33%  
36%



8th GRADE

32%  
35%



CLASS of  
2016



22%  
17%

■ NATIONAL  
■ OHIO

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"Ohio recognizes that a child who cannot read proficiently by the end of the third grade will struggle the rest of their life. From the start of kindergarten, we are committed to providing each child with the extra support they need to be successful, including retaining them when absolutely necessary."



Senator Peggy Lehner

# STATE PROFILE OKLAHOMA

## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
K-3 Reading  
Course Access

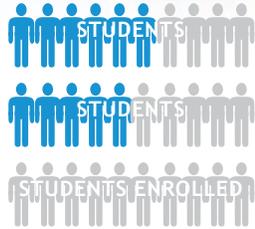
## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Leading Partner Organization	PROTECT*
Assessments	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT*
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	PROTECT
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
College & Career Pathways Economic Security Report	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

\*A-F School Grading and Assessments: Ongoing through the implementation of federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS  
**688,000+** TOTAL STUDENTS



62%  
Low-income

50%  
Minority

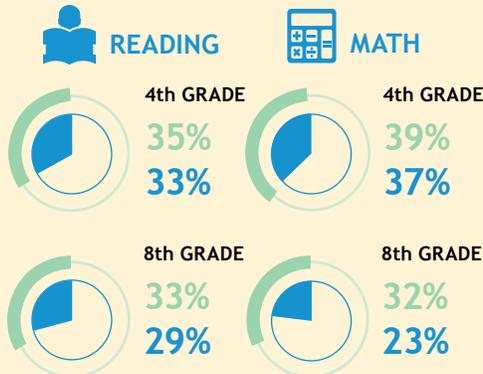
3%  
Choice

AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO  
2010 62% vs. 2030 80%

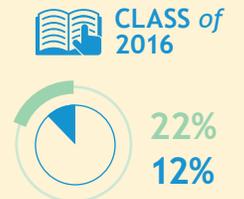


[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)  
2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)  
Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ OKLAHOMA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"As we consider several changes to Oklahoma's accountability system while the Every Student Succeeds Act is being rolled out at the federal level, the open dialogue with ExcelinEd has been critical as we seek national best practices and strategies to continue to improve our system for the success of all Oklahoma students. Their feedback on pending legislation and proposed policy changes has helped ensure we find a local solution that is best for all Oklahoma students without reinventing the wheel."*



**Jennifer Monies**  
Executive Director, Oklahoma Educated Workforce Initiative

# STATE PROFILE

# SOUTH CAROLINA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



K-3 Reading

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

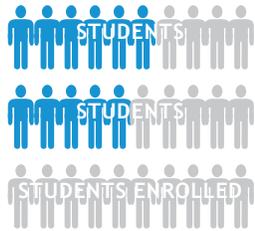
POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT
Education Funding Reform	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP
School Choice Tax Credit Scholarships	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPROVE*
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	PASS
Course Access	Leading Partner Organization	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

\*Tax Credit Scholarships: Legislation passed the House, but was not approved by the Senate.

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

763,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



56%  
Low-income

48%  
Minority

4%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

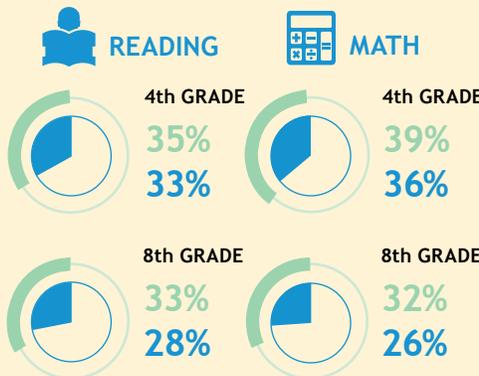
2010 59% vs. 2030 79%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

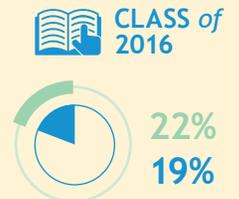
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ SOUTH CAROLINA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

"When we began working to revamp South Carolina's school accountability system, we heard weak proposals for everything from check marks to color ratings from the usual interest groups. ExcelinEd helped us cut through the noise and focus on what really matters to parents, students and everyone else—a fair but accurate assessment of school performance."



**Ellen Weaver**  
President and CEO, Palmetto Promise Institute

# STATE PROFILE

# TENNESSEE

## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



Education Scholarship Accounts

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS
Assessments	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
K-3 Reading	Leading Partner Organization	PASS/ IMPLEMENT
Education Funding Reform	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
School Choice Education Scholarship Accounts	Leading Partner Organization	IMPLEMENT/ IMPROVE
School Choice Vouchers	Supporting In-State Partners	PASS*
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives/Economic Security Report	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
Digital Learning	Leading Partner Organization	PASS

■ SUCCESS
 ■ ONGOING
 ■ FAILED

\*Vouchers: Legislation passed in the Senate and all House committees; not taken up on the House floor.

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

997,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



35%  
Low-income



36%  
Minority



2%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

2010 59% vs. 2030 77%

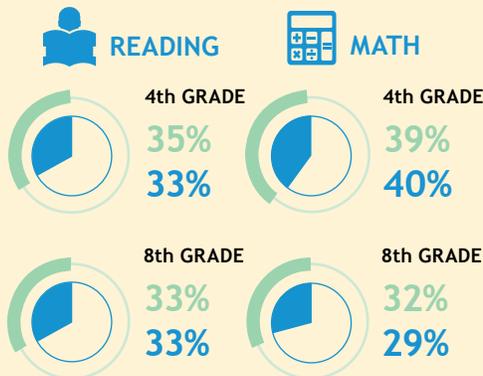


+18%

[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

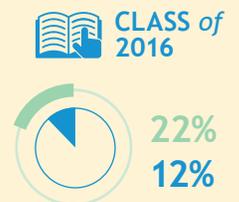
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ TENNESSEE

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

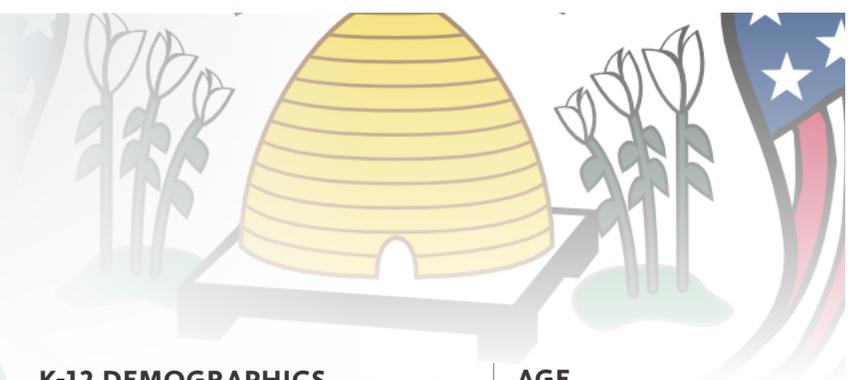
"Passing a new policy is one thing, but supporting that policy through its implementation is just as important. After Tennessee's ESA program passed in 2015, we immediately began working with ExcelinEd to assist the Department in the rulemaking process, and to help make parents aware of this incredible opportunity for their children. We look forward to continuing that partnership on behalf of Tennessee children."



**Justin Owen**  
President and CEO, Beacon Center of Tennessee

# STATE PROFILE

# UTAH



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
K-3 Reading  
College & Career Pathways  
Course Access

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	<b>PROTECT/IMPROVE</b>
College & Career Pathways Industry Certification Incentives	Leading Partner Organization	<b>DEVELOP</b>
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	<b>PASS/IMPLEMENT</b>

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## K-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

**633,000+** TOTAL STUDENTS



**35%**  
Low-income



**25%**  
Minority



**10%**  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

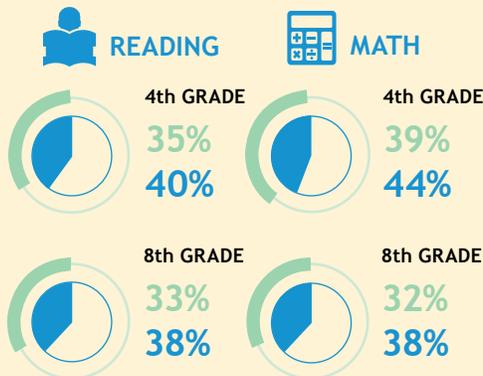
2010 68% vs. 2030 77%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

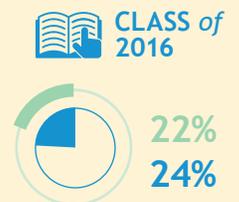
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ UTAH

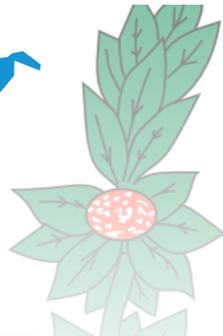
## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*“With competency-based learning, we’re seeing kids who never thought they were good at school actually thriving. Students who were ready to drop out suddenly have a new hope for their education. Learning is no longer about turning in homework or doing extra credit—it’s about fulfilling their innate passion for learning.”*



**Senator Howard Stephenson**  
Competency-Based Education Bill Sponsor

# STATE PROFILE WEST VIRGINIA



## ExcelinEd EXISTING POLICIES



A-F School Grading  
K-3 Reading

## ExcelinEd POLICY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY	OUR ROLE	GOAL
A-F School Grading	Supporting In-State Partners	IMPLEMENT/ PROTECT
Assessments	Supporting In-State Partners	PROTECT
School Choice Charter Schools	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP
Competency-Based Education	Supporting In-State Partners	DEVELOP

■ SUCCESS   
 ■ ONGOING   
 ■ FAILED

## PK-12 DEMOGRAPHICS

277,000+ TOTAL STUDENTS



74%  
Low-income



9%  
Minority



0%  
Choice

## AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

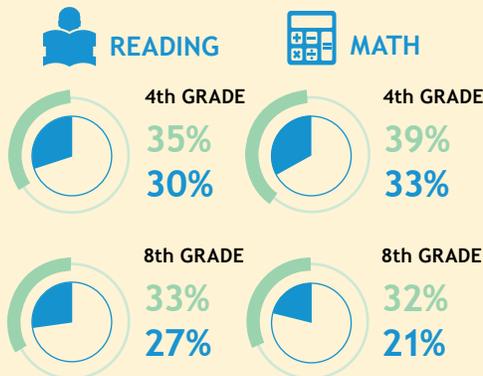
2010 59% vs. 2030 78%



[www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain](http://www.ExcelinEd.org/FaceTheStrain)

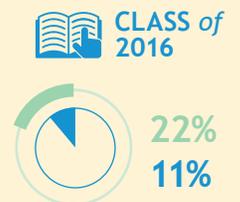
## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT of EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

2015 Nation's Report Card Proficient or Better



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Students Scoring 3 or Higher



■ NATIONAL  
■ WEST VIRGINIA

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

*"As we think about the tremendous opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for West Virginia's economy, it is critical that we support innovative, student-centered approaches to competency-based education. Under such a system, we can personalize education based on student needs and ensure all students are college or career ready. We have a vision for transforming West Virginia classrooms and implementing new strategies and models of learning that will provide our students with the very best opportunities for success."*



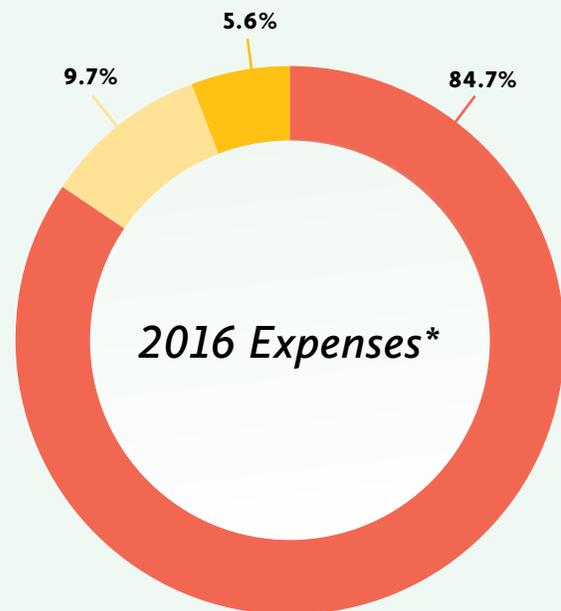
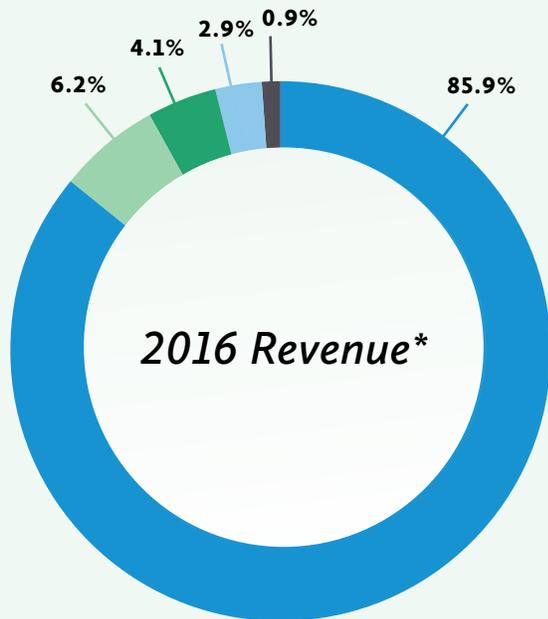
**Dr. Amelia Courts**  
President and CEO, The Education Alliance

# Fiscal Accountability

As with our formula for student achievement, *ExcelinEd* believes in accountability and transparency in our operations. We are committed to sound fiscal management, low overhead and bringing a strong return on investment to those who support our education reform work.

In 2016, *ExcelinEd* invested \$10.8 million in total operating expenditures to successfully advance a bold reform agenda across the country. This was made possible by the generous pledges from our donors in 2016 and in prior years. Approximately 85 percent of *ExcelinEd*'s expenses were invested directly into our policy, advocacy and communications work in the states, as well as our signature convening, the National Summit on Education Reform.

## 2016 Revenue & Expenses



■ Foundations	85.9%
■ Corporate	6.2%
■ Other Income	4.1%
■ Event Registrations	2.9%
■ Individuals	0.9%

■ Program Services**	84.7%
■ General & Administrative	9.7%
■ Fundraising	5.6%

\*2016 Unaudited Results

\*\*Program services include policy, advocacy, communications, outreach and education, the National Summit on Education Reform and the Arts for Life! program.

Copies of our 990 filings, as well as a listing of our donors, are available on our website at: [www.ExcelinEd.org](http://www.ExcelinEd.org).

# 2016 Donors



We are deeply grateful to our donors who believe in the gift of a quality education, and with their generous support of our work, we are turning reform into reality.

We often think of education reform as policies written in legislation—as rules enacted by elected officials and appointed boards. Rather, reform is a profound game changer in the lives of individual children, a gift that allows them to maximize their potential.

Today, because of our work together, 670,000 more students have educational choice. Student achievement is rising in states with strong accountability models. More children are reading on grade level in states with a focus on early literacy. And in states offering incentives, more than 250,000 students have earned an industry certification or passed an Advanced Placement course in readiness for college or a career.

## Greater than \$1,000,000

Robertson Foundation  
Walton Family Foundation

## \$500,001 – \$1,000,000

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Charles & Helen Schwab Foundation

## \$250,001 – \$500,000

Bloomberg Philanthropies  
The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

## \$100,001 – \$250,000

Kern Family Foundation ●●  
News Corporation  
Bill and Susan Oberndorf Foundation ●  
Stiles-Nicholson Foundation

## \$50,001 – \$100,000

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
College Board ●  
The Dick & Betsy DeVos Foundation  
Triad Foundation

## \$25,001 – \$50,000

Bill & Mary Ann Becker  
Jaquelin Hume Foundation ●  
McGraw-Hill Education ●  
Pearson, Inc. ●

## \$10,001 – \$25,000

Amplify ●  
Charter Schools USA ●  
Crestview Advisors  
David & Harriet Dyer Family Foundation  
The Doris & Donald Fisher Fund at Schwab Charitable ●  
Thomas A. & Mary S. James Foundation  
K12 ●  
The Kirtley Family Charitable Trust  
Kyra Solutions ●  
Northwest Evaluation Association ●  
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc. ●  
William E. Simon Foundation  
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. ●

## \$5,000 – \$10,000

Bart & Val Broadman  
Jeb & Columba Bush  
The Cobb Family Foundation ●  
EdChoice, Inc.  
Finnegan Family Foundation  
Kathy & Al Hubbard  
Infrastructure & Industrial Constructors USA, LLC (i+iconUSA) ●  
Raymond James Financial  
Wynn Resorts

- National Summit on Education Reform
- Arts for Life
- EdPolicy Leaders Online
- Personalized Learning

**THE 2017  
NATIONAL  
S' SUMMIT  
EDUCATION  
REFORM**



**NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 1**  
**OMNI NASHVILLE HOTEL**  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**



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 [www.ExcelinEd.org](http://www.ExcelinEd.org)



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