



ExcelinEd.org

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2024

Annual Report

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION
TO UNLOCK LIFELONG
OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS
FOR EACH AND EVERY CHILD



About ExcelinEd

CHANGING POLICY, CHANGING LIVES

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WHAT WE DO: Advance Student-Centered Solutions

<p>Improve the System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Math Achievement • Equitable Funding • Assessments & Accountability • Teacher Pipeline • College & Career Pathways • Digital & Technology 	<p>Create Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public School Choice • Charter Schools • Private School Choice • Education Scholarship Accounts • Home Education • Hybrid Learning & Microschooling 	<p>Reimagine the System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time Enrollment • Career Scholarship Accounts • Learn Anywhere • Chartered Teachers • AI to Support Learning • Course Access
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HOW WE DO IT: Policy & Advocacy Expertise Customized for States

<p>Develop Policy</p> <p>We leverage our team of experts to deliver customized policy solutions for each state.</p>	<p>Advance Policy</p> <p>We work with policymakers and partners to adopt student-centered legislation.</p>	<p>Implement Policy</p> <p>We stay engaged to provide technical assistance, best practices and knowledge exchange across states.</p>	<p>Catalyze Policy</p> <p>Our annual National Summit is the forum for igniting and incubating innovative ideas.</p>
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WHY WE GET RESULTS: Our Strengths Set Us Apart

<p>We're Always Relevant</p> <p>With broad policy engagement, we help states with their most pressing needs and develop foundations for long-term success.</p>	<p>We Pollinate Great Ideas</p> <p>With extensive cross-state engagement, we gain trust and expertise to spread policy solutions quickly across states.</p>	<p>We Partner Strategically</p> <p>Depending on what a state needs, we can play a lead role or work in coalitions, behind the scenes or to fill a gap.</p>
<p>We're In It for the Long Term</p> <p>Our students deserve the best. We believe success is never final, and reform is never finished.</p>		

A MESSAGE FROM Our Chairman



Education reform can unfold at an uneven pace, with bold progress followed by tough challenges. The 2024 NAEP results showed that student achievement nationwide is not where we want it to be, with stagnant scores and even some backsliding. We can agree the past four years have been tough on students—and that we have work to do.

I'm an optimist. I see bright spots where student-centered policies are changing lives, and Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee and Indiana are great examples. Students there showed notable improvements in reading and math, thanks to evidence-based policies, strong accountability systems and targeted investments in student learning. Louisiana—one of just a handful of states implementing every fundamental principle of comprehensive early literacy policy and now with one of the strongest school accountability systems in the country—saw its fourth graders lead the nation in reading improvement. Louisiana also rose above the pack in math, joining Alabama as one of the few states where fourth graders regained pre-pandemic levels of student performance.

Opportunities for students also continue to grow, most notably in Louisiana and Alabama where policymakers adopted universal parental choice, and in Georgia where leaders established the state's first education scholarship account program. Together, these programs alone have the potential to give more than 1.4 million students access to the learning environment that best meets their needs.

These bright spots are just a few examples among many, and they're not accidents. They are proof points of ExcelinEd's vision for transforming education and unlocking lifelong opportunity and success for every child. With a laser focus on accelerating student achievement, we're bringing proven solutions to meet states' needs and innovations to tackle emerging challenges. America's students need us now more than ever, and I'm grateful for all who join in this crucial work.

Onward,

Jeb Bush
Jeb Bush

ExcelinEd in the States | 2024

A MESSAGE FROM Our CEO



Year in and year out, ExcelinEd focuses on what we know best—transformative education policy. In 2024, our work in 30 states had an impact in three strategic ways: **improving** the current education system, **creating alternatives** to meet individual needs and **reimagining education** to prepare today's students for a purposeful future.

From our vantage point in early 2025, we know the most urgent of these actions focus on student achievement. Release of 2024 NAEP data confirmed that students nationwide are struggling in reading and math, and student achievement overall is backsliding.

Strong, sustained and student-centered education policy can turn that around—and it's imperative that more of those policies take hold. This past year, states continued strengthening early literacy with programs, instruction and curricula aligned with the science of reading. Several states prioritized math policy, which must grow in the year ahead. And to maintain a high bar for education quality, Arizona, Florida and Tennessee held firm against attacks

on accountability, while Louisiana fully revised its school accountability system, now one of the strongest in the country.

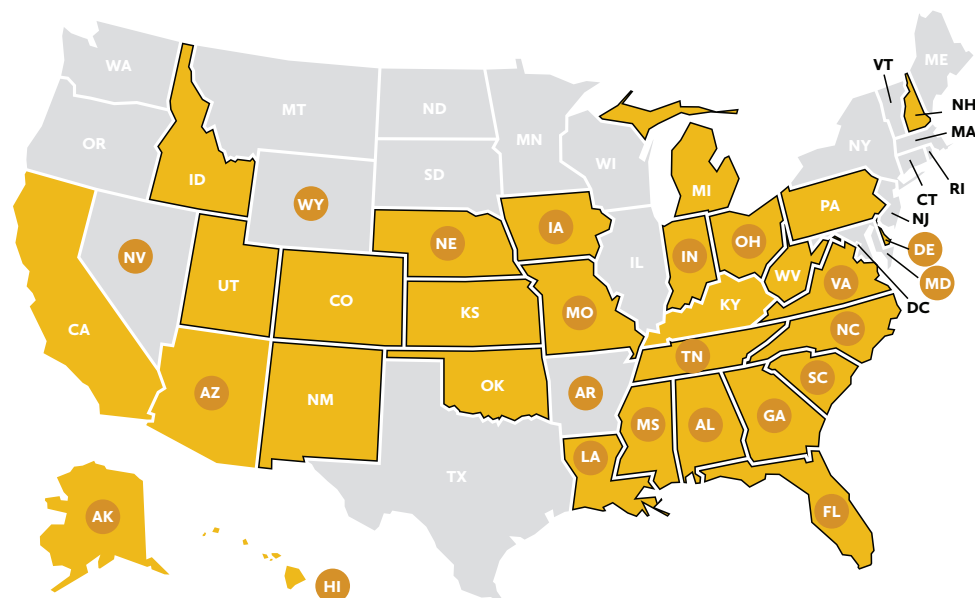
Innovations for career readiness saw Indiana rethink the high school experience and Tennessee implement a program that prepares students for jobs in rural health care.

Amid growing concerns about cell phones and social media harm to youth mental health—and sparked by Dr. Jonathan Haidt's keynote at our 2023 National Summit—Indiana and South Carolina now have phone-free classrooms, and Louisiana, Ohio and Virginia have phone-free schools, all to ensure distraction-free learning for students.

This is just a sampling of our progress in transforming education across the country. I'm sincerely grateful to the many state leaders, policymakers, advocates and partners who share our vision and are making it a reality. On behalf of students nationwide, thank you.

Patricia Levesque

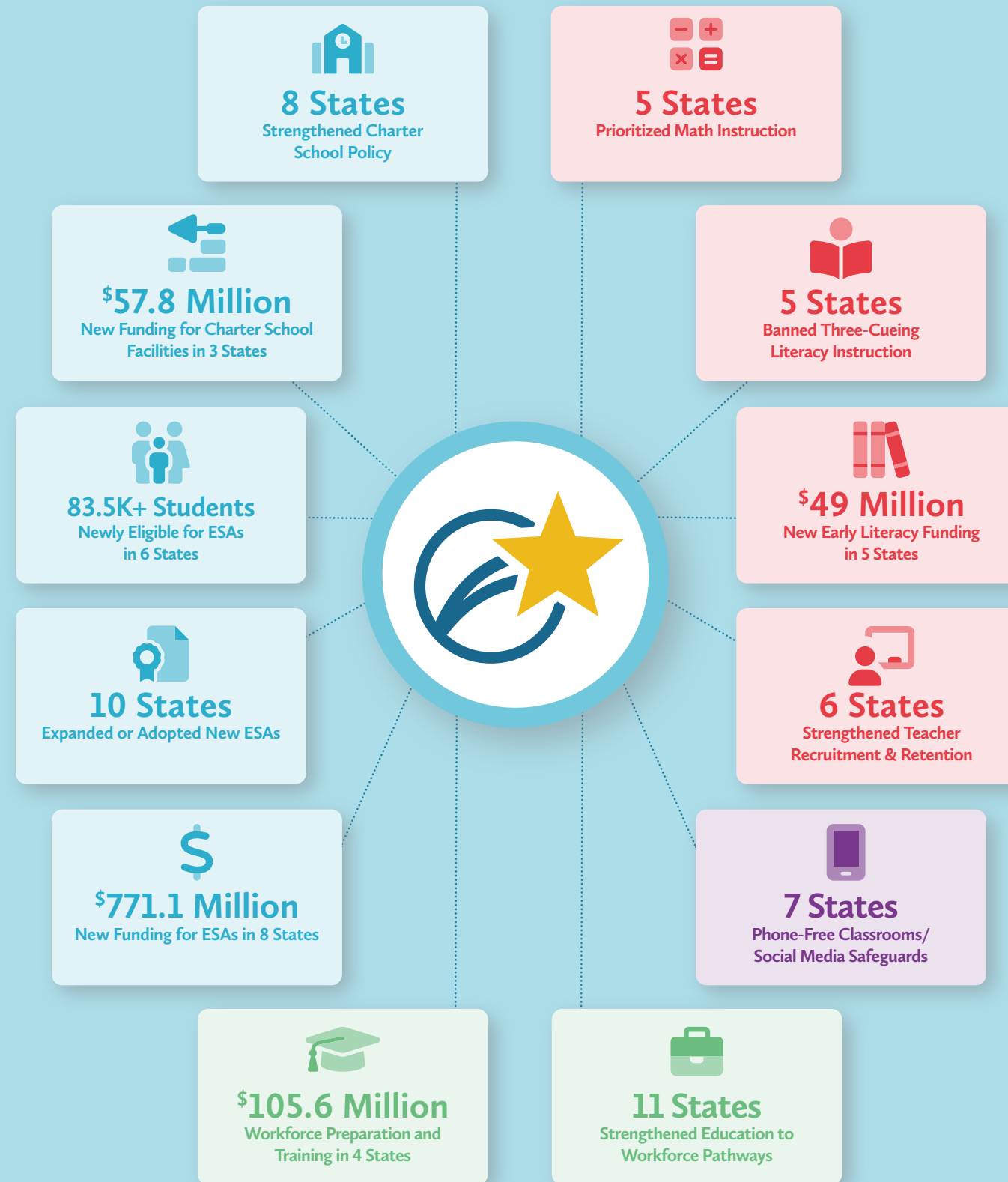
Patricia Levesque
CEO, ExcelinEd



- 30** States Engaged
- 110** Policies Passed or Improved in 25 States
- 19** Policies Protected in 7 States
- 22** States Implementation Support

OUR VALUES | COLLABORATION | INTEGRITY | SERVICE | EXPERTISE | MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By the Numbers | 2024



Empower Families with Opportunity Close Learning Gaps Strengthen Pathways to College + Career Building Digital Skills



ExcelinEd CEO **Patricia Levesque** welcomed 1,200 education leaders, policymakers and advocates to the National Summit, recognizing the many states that took action this year on important issues such as phone-free schools, social media safeguards for minors, pathways into high-demand careers and more.

Journalist **Johann Hari** spoke with 50Can President **Derrell Bradford** about research from his bestselling book, *Stolen Focus*, highlighting the “huge crisis of focus and attention” and lost productivity caused by technology and social media algorithms—with a call to action on preventing harm to society and our students.



“We have to be the people who change the environment so that our kids can achieve their goals.”
– Johann Hari

“We so rarely devote the time that we need to get upstream and solve problems at their root.”
– Dan Heath



Bestselling author **Dan Heath** shared insights from his book, *Upstream*, in a conversation with former Florida Speaker and ExcelinEd in Action board member **Chris Sprows**, describing the pitfalls of downstream problem solving and the victories that can be achieved with an upstream mindset.

Walton Family Foundation’s **Romy Drucker** led a conversation with Arkansas **Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders** on her comprehensive overhaul of K-12 education through the LEARNS Act, which is strengthening early literacy, workforce development, teacher pipelines, school choice and more.



“If we want safer communities and we want strong economies and we want to build a good workforce—it all ties back to education.”
– Governor Sarah Sanders

“We need policymakers focused on changing the system on behalf of kids.”
– Governor Jeb Bush

The Rt. Hon. **Nick Gibb**, former UK Minister of Education, spoke with ExcelinEd board member **Eric Cantor** about England’s notable improvements in reading, emphasizing the importance of phonics and a strong accountability system to achieve lasting results.



“If you want reading comprehension, you first need phonics to get the mechanics of reading.”
– The Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb



Opening the 2024 National Summit, **ExcelinEd Chairman Gov. Jeb Bush** spoke with **Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner** about his vision for transforming education, highlighting the leadership strategies and proven policies that can close learning gaps, expand opportunity, embrace innovation and give every student a chance for a great future.



#EIE24 Highlights

- 1200 attendees
- 48 states plus Washington, DC, Canada and the UK
- 95% rated Summit content outstanding or above average
- 95 policy practitioners from 32 states convened in ExcelinEd’s multi-state policy networks.

2024 SUMMIT SPONSORS



National Summit: Strategy Sessions & Networking

SPOTLIGHT SESSION: **Why Private School Choice Matters: A Conversation Every Policymaker Should Hear**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Early Literacy Always Matters!**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Silence Your Phones: It's Time for Students to Learn**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Beyond K-12: How Performance Funding Can Drive Postsecondary Success**

"Thank you for all you do to curate the finest content and "match make" between good ideas and policy leaders!"
Ellen Weaver, South Carolina Superintendent of Education



STATE CHIEFS FORUM



SPONSORED ROUNDTABLES



EDUCATOR SCHOLARS

STRATEGY SESSION: **Cutting-Edge Strategies to Support Rural Education**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Improving Academic Performance Starts with Accountability**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Reversing the Curve on Math Performance**



SPOTLIGHT SESSION: **Take it from the Top: Two State Chiefs on Education Innovations**



"Our team is buzzing. We are already looking forward to next year."
Jacob Oliva, Arkansas Secretary of Education

SPOTLIGHT SESSION: **Redesigning High School: What Should High School Guarantee Students?**



2024 SUMMIT SPONSORS



Multi-State Policy Networks

EARLY LITERACY NETWORK

The Early Literacy Network more than doubled in size over the past four years, now numbering 37 states plus the District of Columbia. The network's 2024 convenings welcomed five new states: California, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont and Wyoming.

“This core group of literacy leaders is invaluable in sparking new ideas and solving challenges.”

In three convenings, members explored ExcelinEd's updated resource, [Early Literacy Matters 2.0](#), reviewed new [early literacy coaching modules](#) developed with the Florida Center for Reading Research, shared state program updates and focused discussions on the science of reading, banning three-cueing in instructional materials, deployment of literacy specialists and implementation needs.



“I always leave meetings with ideas to improve early literacy initiatives to help ALL students become strong readers.”

ESA ADMINISTRATOR NETWORK

The ESA Administrator Network added four states with new ESA programs: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Wyoming. Members of the 19-state network learned about the Texas Education Agency's internal dashboard for measuring ESA program effectiveness, Utah's program launch, innovations in New Hampshire, strategies for parent outreach, effective staffing models and recruitment of ESA providers.

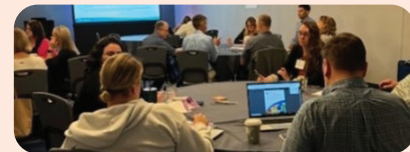
In October, ExcelinEd launched a new sub-group of experienced practitioners, ESA Admin Leaders, to provide focused space for working through common challenges in mature programs and for creating a stronger voice to inform broader policy conversations.

INNOVATION PARTNERS & DIGITAL POLICY NETWORKS

Fourteen states joined the Innovation Partners Network's convenings this year, with ExcelinEd presenting on *Microschools: What States Should Know*, *Transitioning to New State Leadership* and *Open Education Resources*. State updates addressed graduation readiness, innovation progress and rulemaking, grant funding and high school redesign.



ExcelinEd's Digital Policy Network joined with Innovation Partners for a webinar on AI tools for education and a work session on the implementation of AI, including a code of ethics. Eight states convened on digital policy to discuss public-private partnerships, funding and broadband access, with updates on digital literacy standards (Utah) and the Digital Citizenship Framework and Integrated Tech Standards (Minnesota).



STATE CHIEFS FORUM

ExcelinEd launched a forum exclusively for state education chiefs that grew out of the State Chiefs annual convening at ExcelinEd's National Summit and the chiefs' strong interest in ongoing connection, sharing challenges and exploring student-centered policy solutions.

Since the forum's inception in 2024, education chiefs from 17 states have participated in the group's virtual and in-person convenings. Discussion topics have included phone-free schools, teacher pipeline policies, high-quality instructional materials and the federal landscape.



POLICY LEADERS NETWORK

ExcelinEd convened its Policy Leaders Network to explore long-term solutions to systemic educational challenges. Fifteen policymakers from 11 states met in Kennebunkport, Maine, for an in-depth review of what high school redesign means and why states need to level up the high school experience.

Participants identified numerous priorities for high school learners: opportunities to earn credentials of value, mastery of core academic content, more flexible course and credit sequences aligned to career pathways, access to real-world and postsecondary experiences, and demonstration of relevant skills and competencies. For credentials of value, ExcelinEd presented an analysis of each state's alignment with five model policy components and identified gaps that, once addressed, will ensure that learners can earn industry-recognized credentials with real marketplace value.



PODCASTS: SPOTLIGHTING PROGRESS

POLICY EXPERTS & STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

To explore important topics in K-12 education, ExcelinEd launched [Policy Changes Lives](#), a new seasonal podcast that addresses timely issues in education and spotlights policies that change students' lives.

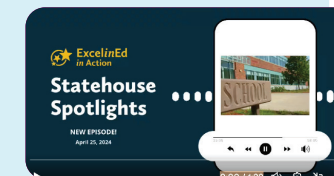


During each episode, the ExcelinEd team shares their expertise and interviews education leaders and researchers, which have included Dr. Sara Morrison, Executive Director of the Tennessee State Board of Education; North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt; education analyst Chad Aldeman; and literacy expert Dr. Jan Hasbrouck. Topics in the podcast's inaugural season have included declining school enrollment, Indiana's career scholarship accounts and teacher recruitment and retention.

STATE ACTIONS & EDUCATION CHAMPIONS

ExcelinEd in Action launched a new podcast series, [Statehouse Spotlights](#), a timely resource for policymakers on state legislation. From early literacy to the teacher pipeline and school choice, the weekly podcast reports on the latest bills shaping student-centered policies.

In its inaugural season, the podcast's guests have included Colorado Sen. Brandi Bradley on charter school policy; Indiana Education Secretary Katie Jenner on Indiana's high school redesign; Virginia Delegate Carrie Coyner and Indiana Senator Jeff Raatz on adolescent literacy policies; and Indiana House Education Committee Chairman Bob Behning on America's math crisis and math policy progress.



POLICY IMPLEMENTATION: TEACHER POLICY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

ExcelinEd supported the South Carolina Department of Education in an initiative to make policy recommendations to improve its teacher pipeline, retention and compensation policies.



ExcelinEd's policy experts facilitated six meetings of the South Carolina Strategic Recruitment and Retention task force, which included an in-person convening. Members of the task force—superintendents and principals from across the state—analyzed strategies to address teacher pipeline challenges and heard input from leading researchers and practitioners in Tennessee, Texas and Michigan.

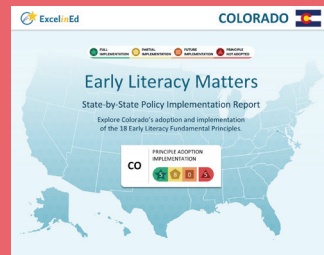


The task force focused on six major policy areas, including alternative routes to teaching and career ladders and strategic compensation plans for the state's best teachers. In addition to facilitating task force members to create and share a set of recommendations with Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver, ExcelinEd also provided model policies and related guidelines for the state to consider as it works to pass and implement the task force's recommendations.

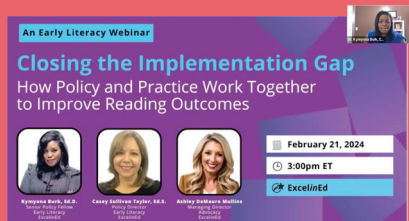
Close Learning Gaps

EARLY LITERACY MATTERS 2.0

Expanding on ExcelinEd's [Early Literacy Matters](#), a first-of-its-kind resource, this updated tool shows how state-level policy is being implemented via an interactive map of 18 early literacy fundamental principles and in-depth policy implementation reports and ratings for each state.



The update included a webinar and a comprehensive [blog](#) as well as new model policies and guidance that include [High-Quality Instructional Materials](#) and [Aligning Educator Preparation Programs to the Science of Reading](#).



Early Literacy Matters 2.0 strengthens the bridge between policy adoption and implementation, and it is spurring action in states. In 2024, Alabama, Indiana and South Carolina joined Louisiana, North Carolina and Arkansas in adopting all of ExcelinEd's 18 fundamental principles for comprehensive early literacy. Maryland used Early Literacy Matters to identify policy gaps and increased its fundamental principles for early literacy from 11 to 16.

“Early Literacy Matters gives state leaders the critical data and customized guidance on the policies they need to affect rising student achievement.”

- Louisiana Department of Education

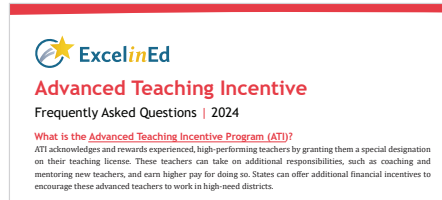
IMPROVING TEACHER PIPELINES

ExcelinEd is helping states strengthen teacher pipelines and retention with strategies that reduce barriers to entry, provide financial and professional incentives for high-performing teachers and reimagine the teaching profession. Eight model policies paired with new Q&A fact sheets address topics that include

[Paid Parental Leave](#), [Reciprocal Licensure](#), [Adjunct Teachers](#), [Apprenticeships](#), [Chartered Teachers](#) and [Advanced Teaching Incentives](#).

ExcelinEd hosted a webinar and published a blog, [Cracking the Code: Leveraging State Data to Understand the Educator Pipeline](#), to help states solve teacher shortages. By analyzing supply-and-demand data in their educator workforce, states can pave the way for informed solutions.

Gov. Bush published an op-ed, [Charting a Route Toward Teacher Success](#), to highlight state-based strategies to address teacher shortages. Alternative paths for teacher certification were explored in a blog, [Reimagining Teacher Certification: Insights from Traditional Public and Charter Schools](#).



THE RIGHT TO READ

Senior Policy Fellow Kymyona Burk served as an advisor and participant in [The Right to Read](#), an award-winning 2023 documentary on early literacy that has since reached an audience of more than 300,000 viewers. In New York City this year, Burk participated in film screenings and panel discussions hosted by the NAACP and New York City Public Schools, National School Boards Association, the College Board and HBCU.



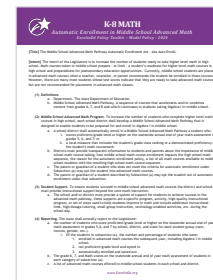
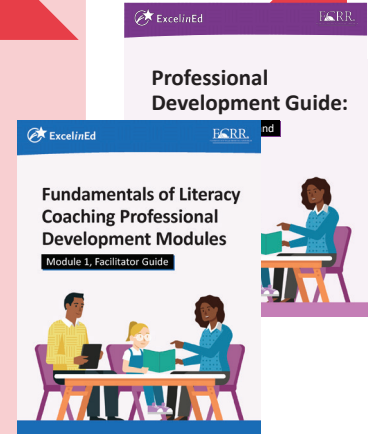
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR LITERACY COACHES

In partnership with the Florida Center for Reading Research, ExcelinEd developed a comprehensive training resource for state and district leaders nationwide to train and deploy literacy coaches into schools.



The [Fundamentals of Literacy Coaching](#) is a free, multi-component set of instructional materials informed by the latest reading research and adult learning theory, integrating opportunities for collaboration and dialogue among colleagues.

With [introductory](#) and [overview](#) videos and a blog highlighting key information, [Empowering Educators for Success in the Classroom](#), the Fundamentals of Literacy Coaching comprises 600+ pages of downloadable material. Its nine sessions, supported by three facilitators' guides, provide the tools to equip literacy coaches with the knowledge and skills to become successful literacy leaders and contribute to the improvement of reading instruction and student achievement.



ADVANCING MATH POLICY

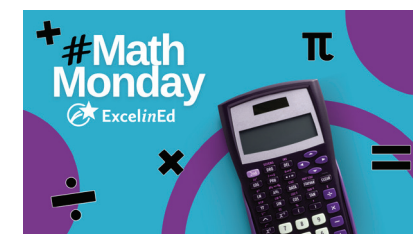
ExcelinEd published a new [model policy](#) to support student achievement and increase the number of students ready for higher-level

math in high school. The policy provides for automatically enrolling middle-school students in advanced math when their test scores indicate strong capability.

ExcelinEd's math policy director, Lindsey Henderson, presented at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Chicago.



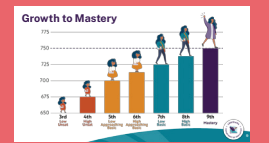
To emphasize the importance of math skills to policymakers and parents, ExcelinEd published a monthly series of [#MathMonday](#) blogs, highlighting everyday use of math and the many postsecondary opportunities available to students with advanced math skills.



IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT: SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

STRONGER ACCOUNTABILITY IN LOUISIANA

ExcelinEd worked with Louisiana's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to strengthen school accountability through a new accountability model. Approved by the state board, the model creates a robust and transparent process for measuring school performance. The state's school grading system is now one of the strongest in the country.



STATE-LEVEL TASK FORCE SUPPORT

To help multiple states sustain and strengthen their accountability systems through reliable implementation, ExcelinEd's Senior Policy Fellow Christy Hovanetz participated in accountability workgroups or task forces in Arizona, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Virginia and Nebraska.

PREVENTING BACKSLIDING

Patricia Levesque penned op-eds on the risk of lower accountability standards when leaders reset passing scores on state assessments: [Wisconsin making tests easier to pass is a big problem for students](#) and [Oklahoma education officials have undermined the integrity of the student testing system](#).

Cara Candal, Vice President of Policy, addressed lowering the accountability bar in a state known for student achievement: [A Step Backward for Massachusetts Students](#). Levesque also praised states taking action to uphold strong school accountability systems: [Measuring growth and proficiency: The true story of school accountability in Mississippi](#) and [How Arkansas is ensuring student assessments are accurate](#).

WORK-BASED LEARNING IN OHIO

ExcelinEd collaborated with Ohio Excels and Workmorphis to publish a new report, [Strengthening Work-Based Learning in Ohio](#).

The study engaged public policy, education and workforce leaders to explore the current state of work-based learning and offer solutions to improve every student's K-12 experience. The report was accompanied by a blog, [Ohio's Future Workforce: Exploring the Transformative Power of Work-Based Learning](#).



One hundred and sixty participants—from Ohio and 18 other states—joined the launch webinar, The Future of Ohio's Workforce, to hear from Steve Dackin, Director of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, and Deputy Director Jeremy Verner discuss work-based learning as one of the pillars of a successful college and career pathways strategy.



DATA SCIENCE RESEARCH

ExcelinEd published a new data science report, [Data Science Is For Everyone](#), and blog, [Unleashing the Power of Data: Why Schools and Students Need Data Science Now](#). An interactive online tool helps policymakers understand the demand for data science skills in their state. ExcelinEd also developed a model policy and held a webinar featuring "Freakonomics" co-author Steven Levitt.



WORKFORCE MIT PATHWAYS PROGRESS IN GEORGIA

ExcelinEd's senior policy director Nathan Oakley presented at the Georgia Governor's Workforce Summit, an inaugural event drawing more than 600 education stakeholders. To seed ideas with policymakers, Nathan highlighted what other states are doing to ensure students are prepared for success beyond high school.

MAKING A DIPLOMA COUNT

ExcelinEd Board member Chris Cerf penned an op-ed after New York announced a plan to eliminate the state's highly respected Regents Exams and New Jersey lawmakers considered eliminating the state's graduation exit exam: [Lowering High School Diploma Standards Is The Opposite of Equity and Social Justice](#).

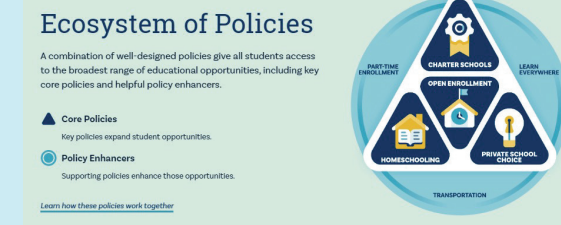


CEO Patricia Levesque called for protecting Florida's graduation requirements in the Florida Phoenix, saying, "We want Florida to expect more not less." She was quoted again when legislation eliminating end of course exams was defeated: [House votes to keep Algebra I, 10th grade English exams intact for graduation requirements in FL](#).

SCHOOL CHOICE MATTERS

ExcelinEd developed [School Choice Matters](#), a new online resource that provides policymakers with comprehensive information to support informed decision making about school choice. Features include:

- **Policy analyses** of 40+ school choice policies on open enrollment, public school choice, private school choice and homeschooling.
- **Comparative analysis** capabilities states to help policymakers identify the most promising approach for their systems.
- **State reports** on a state's school choice landscape, providing comprehensive information and opportunities for improvement.



BALANCING OPPORTUNITY WITH ACCOUNTABILITY

CEO Patricia Levesque explored strategies for expanding opportunities for families while also creating accountability, protecting autonomy and ensuring a quality education for students in her blog, [From State to Parent Accountability: A Continuum of Smart Options for Regulation and Oversight in School Choice](#).



DEEPER DIVES INTO CHOICE POLICY

ExcelinEd's policy directors explored some of the finer points of school choice policy development and implementation with in-depth blogs:

- [Dispelling 8 Common Myths Surrounding Private School Choice](#)
- [How Hidden Pitfalls Can Sabotage School Choice Programs](#)
- [What States Can Learn from Today's ESAs: Key Insights for Successful Implementation](#)

ADVOCATING FOR CHOICE

Gov. Bush penned an op-ed on the continuing demand from parents for educational options for their children: [This Election, Families Made Their Voices Heard on School Choice](#). He also authored [School choice helped Florida. It can benefit Georgia, too](#), reminding readers that Florida's ambitious choice programs helped all schools improve.



Board member Bruce Rauner's op-ed, [Unions such as the CTU are taking away school choice from parents and their children](#),

praised the success of choice programs and called out those who want "to take away educational opportunity for those who need it most: Illinois students and families."

CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES IN OHIO

Building on ExcelinEd's multi-year work in Ohio to address charter school facilities funding, the state's progress was highlighted in a new report, [Building for Success in Ohio: Measuring How Well Ohio is Meeting Charter School Facility Needs](#).



CELL PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM

Gov. Bush penned an op-ed, [We must protect students from social media harm](#), on the negative impacts of social media use by children and teens. "It's time to eliminate distractions and return classrooms to laboratories of learning," he wrote.



Gov. Bush emphasized the distractions of cell phones in schools in a second op-ed, [Fighting cellphone use in classrooms demands everyone's attention](#).

CEO Patricia Levesque highlighted strategies by states to keep students focused on learning when cell phones and social media platforms vie for their attention: [Reclaiming the Classroom: States Empowering Parents, Teachers to Fight Back Against Tech Intrusion](#). An ExcelinEd blog, [Scroll Less, Learn More](#), shares research findings on cell phone distractions and multiple ways to foster more conducive learning environments for students.

ADVANCING DIGITAL LITERACY

ExcelinEd published a new model policy, [Digital Literacy in Education Act](#), to help policymakers improve student access to digital skill-building and learning opportunities. The policy was accompanied by a brief, [State Approaches to Digital Literacy Instruction](#), that highlights how Utah, Texas and New Jersey are proactively addressing digital literacy to equip students with the skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

In addition, three new resources were added to the policy library on digital topics in education:

- [Competitive State Procurement for Digital Educational Resources](#)
- [Closing the Digital Divide in Education](#)
- [Scroll Less, Learn More: A Call for Phone-Free Schools](#)

TRENDING TOPICS: AI AND SOCIAL MEDIA

CEO Patricia Levesque ranked two digital policy topics—artificial intelligence (AI) and social media—among 2024's top trends for education policy in her widely read blog, [The Future of Education Policy: 7 Trends State Lawmakers Need to Know for 2024](#). "The future of education depends on the well-informed decisions of state lawmakers today," she wrote.

[Navigating the AI Landscape in Education: State Guidance for Responsible Integration](#) provided an in-depth update on how states are addressing AI. It included review of AI guidance documents from 14 states, capturing eight key themes for consideration by policymakers.



ACCOUNTABILITY IN WISCONSIN

To address Wisconsin's plan to lower test scores and thereby weaken school grading and the state's accountability system, ExcelinEd's Christy Hovanetz was featured in a broadcast interview, [Could changing state testing standards harm students in the long-run?](#), and a print story in The 74, [Responding to Post-Pandemic Norms, More States are Lowering Test Standards](#).



EARLY LITERACY

As Maryland's Board of Education reviewed policies to improve the state's 4th grade reading scores—at their lowest since 1998—ExcelinEd's Dr. Kymyona Burk appeared on Baltimore's Fox45 Morning News coverage on [Combating Early Literacy Challenges in Maryland](#).



In a national Smart Brief opinion piece, [The science of reading: A formula to great literary instruction](#), Dr. Burk described how science of reading policies can make an enormous difference in students' ability to read.

BOOSTING STUDENTS ACROSS THE FINISH LINE

ExcelinEd's Adriana Harrington, Managing Director of Policy, penned an [op-ed](#) for Utah's Standard-Examiner on policies that help college students complete their degree. "One of the most successful ways to improve the number of students graduating are [Last Dollar and Last Mile](#) financial aid programs," she wrote, highlighting two of the policy solutions in ExcelinEd's [Pathways Matter](#) policy framework.



CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS

Nathan Hoffman, ExcelinEd's senior director for state policy and advocacy, was interviewed for Washington, DC's ABC news affiliate for their story, [Education experts raise concerns over impact of screen time on students](#). Nathan discussed the amount of time K-12 students spend on their phones, especially using social media apps, and its negative impact on their academic performance and mental health.

Reimagine Learning

HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN IN INDIANA

ExcelinEd supported Superintendent Katie Jenner and other state leaders to identify strategies and develop plans to redesign high school. Gov. Bush published an op-ed in the Chicago Tribune on reimagining high school and how to better align K-12 education with long-term student success, [Jeb Bush: What the US can learn from Indiana's high school redesign](#).



Board member Al Hubbard penned an op-ed in the Indiana Capital Chronicle, [The world has changed and so should the high school experience](#), on Indiana's redesign of high school, with case studies on workforce partnerships that align in-demand jobs with K-12 education.

INDIANA CAREER SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS

CEO Patricia Levesque was interviewed by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's "BizVoice" magazine about the state's groundbreaking Career Scholarship Accounts and ExcelinEd's work on rethinking high school training programs and career-centered education in Indiana.



TIMELY TOPICS IN CHOICE

Vice President of Policy Cara Candal was featured on the Pioneer Institute's podcast, [The Learning Curve](#), where she discussed expansion of private choice programs, the value of parent-driven school models and challenges faced by large urban school districts.



The Boston Globe quoted Candal in its coverage on the demand for private schools, even in communities where public schools perform well and are highly valued: [Private schools in Boston suburbs are seeing a student boom. Why?](#) She said parents are seeking small class sizes and personal attention, which can be harder to find at a public school. "In this country, not just in Massachusetts, we're still operating schools that look a lot like they did in 1976," she said.

Vice President of Advocacy Tom Greene was interviewed by The National Desk about the [85,000 students on waiting lists for North Carolina's charter schools](#). The interview was reposted 60+ times to stations across the country, including in Washington, DC, Seattle, Portland, Baltimore and Raleigh.

Fiscal Accountability

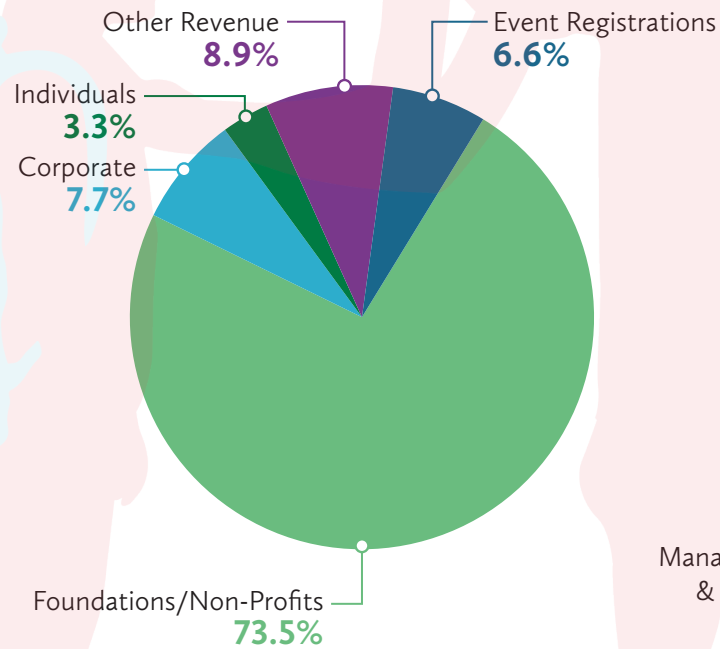
AS WITH OUR FORMULA FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, EXCELINED BELIEVES IN ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN OUR OPERATIONS.

As trusted stewards, we are committed to sound fiscal management and maximizing the use of every dollar toward policy solutions that are increasing student learning, eliminating inequities and readying graduates for college and career. In 2024, 85 percent of Excelined's expenses were invested directly into our policy and advocacy work to support states in transforming education.

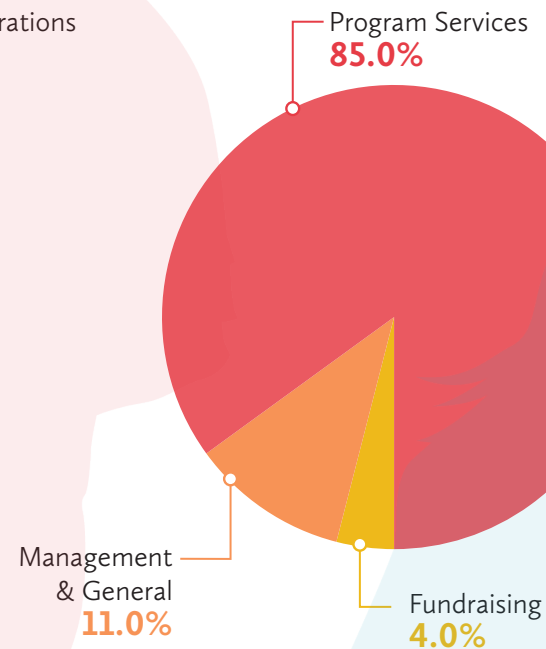


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2024 REVENUE



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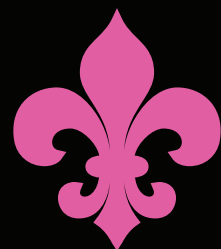


Save the Date



2025 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON EDUCATION

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ExcelinEd in Action is the 501(c)(4) sister organization to ExcelinEd. ExcelinEd in Action works with state lawmakers and advocacy partners to adopt 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 Board members include Jeb Bush, Eric Cantor, Gary Chartrand, F. Philip Handy, Dee Bagwell Haslam, Bruce Rauner, Chris Sprowls and Zachariah P. Zachariah.

ExcelinEd in Action's work nationwide in 2024 is highlighted in our [Legislative Impact In Brief](#) and the in-depth [2024 Legislative Impact Report](#).