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2023

# Annual Report

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



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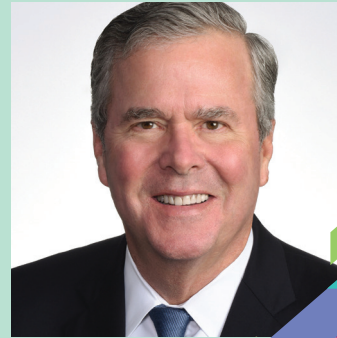
### SUSANA MARTINEZ

31<sup>st</sup> Governor of New Mexico

### BRUCE RAUNER

42<sup>nd</sup> Governor of Illinois

## A MESSAGE FROM Our Chairman



Throughout 2023, state leaders wisely redirected their focus from short-term pandemic response to longer lasting strategies to transform education. Using insights and data from those disrupted years—and watching millions of families struggle to keep their students on track—policymakers nationwide took bold action to meet education’s many challenges.

By anchoring early literacy and math instruction to evidence-based practices, they’re on the right path to closing achievement gaps. By expanding access to schools and customized resources, they’re maximizing opportunities for students to engage and learn. By aligning apprenticeships and career programs with real world needs—including in the teaching profession itself—they’re building pathways to lifelong fulfillment. And by harnessing technology, they’re innovating and guiding how the latest tools can best serve students and educators.

ExcelinEd shares these same goals. And we value your partnership to achieve them, because success requires far more than a great policy idea. It takes parents

calling for change. It takes collaboration in state legislatures and leaders willing to go big and bold. It takes public servants and educators to translate policy into practice in communities, implementing new laws with fidelity and long-term commitment. And it takes generous supporters to see it all through, turning big ideas into transformational realities for our students.

That’s ultimately where our vision lies—in the success of every child in this great nation. Our actions today are changing the future of millions of kids, unlocking lifelong opportunity and success. I’m humbled by that thought and motivated to never stop striving for excellence. I’m also grateful to everyone who joins us along the way.

Onward,

Jeb Bush  
Chairman, ExcelinEd

## A MESSAGE FROM Our CEO



As a full year of our work comes into perspective, it’s inspiring to see how ExcelinEd’s student-centered policies are transforming K-12 education.

After NAEP’s sobering data arrived in late 2022, state leaders wasted no time adopting policies to turn around student achievement. Throughout 2023, early literacy was front and center as ten states took action to ensure literacy instruction aligns with the science of reading. Eight states went a step further by banning three-cueing, an outdated and harmful approach.

Results on the Nation’s Report Card also reignited a focus on K-8 math policy, with West Virginia, Arkansas and Florida leading the way and prioritizing it with evidenced-based instruction and support for struggling students.

2023 saw an explosion in parental empowerment, with millions of students becoming eligible to benefit from education choice. Seven states took monumental action to close the funding gap for public charter schools, with programs to better meet facility needs and provide more equitable access to local tax dollars. New and expanded education

scholarship programs in Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, North Carolina and Utah provided for universal eligibility, while Oklahoma created a universal refundable tax credit, Nebraska adopted its first ever private school choice program, and South Carolina adopted its first ESA program. What a year for education opportunity!

Indiana created the nation’s first career scholarship accounts, which support students with work-based learning, apprenticeships and postsecondary opportunities. And to strengthen the teacher pipeline, seven states adopted strategies such as mentoring programs and alternative licensure.

These are just a few highlights of an extraordinary year, and I’m grateful to the many state leaders, policymakers, advocates and partners who made it all possible. On behalf of millions of students, thank you.

Patricia Levesque  
CEO, ExcelinEd

## OUR FIVE GOALS

To create a 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning environment, ExcelinEd established five goals—each with student-centered policy solutions—to impact 5 million students over 5 years. These goals have the power to change lives:

### Close Learning Gaps

*Guaranteeing every child receives academic support to learn, succeed and achieve their full potential*

### Empower Families with Opportunity

*Providing families with access to the learning environment that best fits their child’s needs*

### Strengthen Pathways to College + Careers

*Supporting every student in gaining in-demand skills for lifelong success*

### Reimagine Learning

*Transforming the when, where and how of education to individualize learning*

### Bridge the Digital Divide

*Ensuring every student has equitable access to the digital superhighway*

## CHANGING POLICY, CHANGING LIVES

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush launched the Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd) and ExcelinEd in Action to support state leaders in transforming education so that all children are equipped for success.

For more than a decade, ExcelinEd has been advancing student-centered policy solutions that are:

- ▶ Improving student learning
- ▶ Increasing opportunity
- ▶ Eliminating inequities
- ▶ Ready graduates for college and higher-quality, higher-wage, in-demand jobs

### OUR APPROACH

#### Policy Development & Implementation

We bring deep policy expertise and implementation experience to develop and support state leaders with customized, education policy solutions.

#### State Advocacy

We collaborate, coalition-build and advocate for change in state education policy.

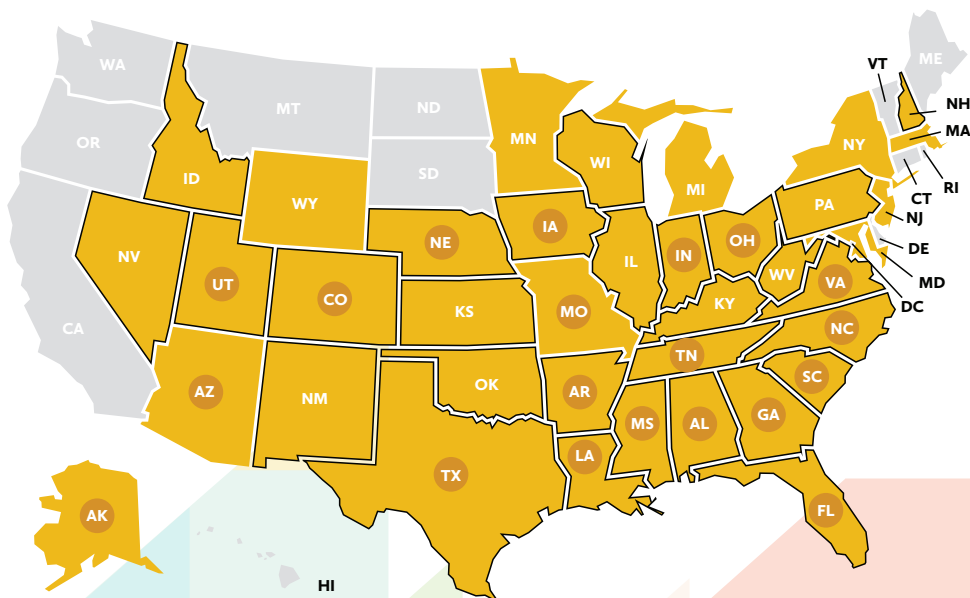
#### Resources & Research

We develop state-specific policy resources and conduct research to understand how policy solutions translate to real-world student success.

#### Thought Leadership & Convening

We host the National Summit on Education and facilitate networks of states to inform policy and practice.

## ExcelinEd in the States | 2023



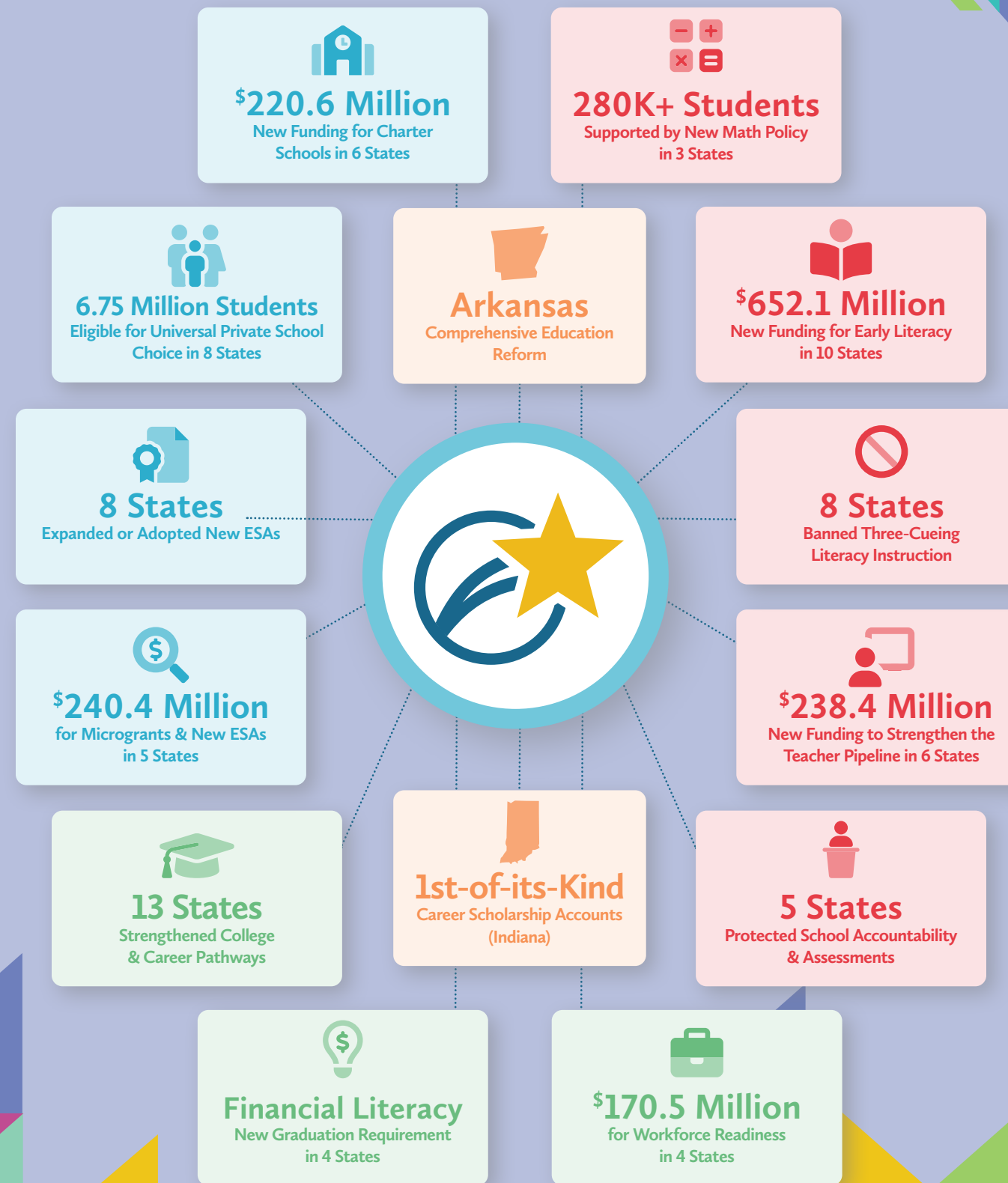
**38**  
States Engaged

**12**  
Policies Protected in 6 States

**117**  
Policies Passed and Improved in 28 States

**20**  
States Implementation Support

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



■ Close Learning Gaps ■ Empower Families with Opportunity ■ Reimagine Learning ■ Strengthen Pathways to College + Career

# 2 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON 23 EDUCATION



ExcelinEd's CEO **Patricia Levesque** welcomed a record number of attendees and recognized states that took action on last year's Summit priorities: banning three-cueing instruction, financial literacy and universal parental choice.



Bestselling author and social psychologist **Jonathan Haidt** sounded a call to action for policymakers on the harmful impact of social media and smartphones on students' wellbeing in a discussion with **Hanna Skandera**, CEO of The Daniels Fund.

*"You can actually implement policies and change laws that will have a direct impact on mental health."* – Jonathan Haidt



ExcelinEd Chairman, **Gov. Jeb Bush**, and AEI fellow and charter school founder **Ian Rowe** opened the 2023 National Summit by exploring the policies and innovations transforming education, including math and literacy fundamentals, teacher talent pipelines and relevant pathways into the jobs of the future.

*"We're moving toward a completely customized learning experience that is unique to each child. That's been my hope and dream for the last 40 years."*

– Governor Jeb Bush

*"The power of AI is that it can take data in different formats. Teachers will be able to have a teaching assistant, students a tutor and transparency for parents."*

– Sal Khan



Education innovator **Sal Khan** spoke with ExcelinEd Board member **Gov. Bruce Rauner** on artificial intelligence (AI) and its rapidly unfolding place in American society, including our children's K-12 classrooms.



*"The stakes here are high. We're losing too many of our men and our boys."*

– Richard Reeves

Researcher **Richard Reeves** revealed the complex and troubling challenges facing today's male students in a conversation with **Katie Jenner**, Indiana Secretary of Education.



*"Moral courage is a skill set. It's something we can actually learn and something that we can actually teach."*

– Irshad Manji



In a conversation with ExcelinEd board member **Gov. Susana Martinez**, **Irshad Manji**, founder of the Moral Courage® Project, shared strategies for turning heated issues into healthy conversations and creating a culture of civility.



## 2023 SUMMIT SPONSORS



# Strategy Sessions & Networking



STRATEGY SESSION: **Acing It in Math: Policies that Add Up to Success**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Young Minds at Work: How Social Media and Cell Phones are Harming Students**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Building for Success, Literally: Novel Solutions for Charter Facilities Funding**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Reading Struggles After 3rd Grade: Adolescent Literacy Needs Attention Now**



STRATEGY SESSION: **Immediate Strategies for Supporting, Training and Retaining High-Quality Teachers**



STRATEGY SESSION: **ChatGPT and Generative AI: What Every Policymaker Needs to Know...Now!**

*"Every year I leave with takeaways that are actionable right in my home state of Indiana."*  
- Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education



FIELD TRIP TO MICROSCHOOLS



STRATEGY SESSION: **What's Next for College and Career Pathways? Policy Highlights from States**



EDUCATOR SCHOLARS

*"My experience at National Summit is that you can partner with state legislators and begin to incubate ideas."*  
- Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana State Superintendent of Education



SPONSORED ROUNDTABLES



STATE EDUCATION CHIEFS

STRATEGY SESSION: **The Future is Now for Data Science**



## #EIE23 Highlights

- 1200+ attendees
- 49 states plus Washington, DC
- 97% rated Summit content outstanding or above average
- 115+ policy practitioners from 30 states convened in ExcelinEd's multi-state policy networks.

*"These summits have really been a pivotal part of my ongoing education journey and my own learning experience."*  
- Ellen Weaver, South Carolina Superintendent of Education

## 2023 SUMMIT SPONSORS



# Multi-State Policy Networks

## EARLY LITERACY NETWORK

ExcelinEd's Early Literacy Network convened three times this year with literacy experts from 17 states. The group addressed policy implementation strategies, including endorsement criteria for literacy coaches (Florida), protocols for reviewing reading programs (Alabama), the role of philanthropy (Indiana), reading success plans (Missouri) and dyslexia screening. The group also covered bans by states on harmful three-cueing instruction and a model policy to advance adolescent literacy.

*"This group is so beneficial to our work. It is helpful to hear what others are doing in their state and to know we always have a network to turn to for support."*



*"I am gaining more knowledge by learning what others are doing, which helps me improve in my role at the state level to support LEAs better."*



## PATHWAYS MATTER NETWORK

ExcelinEd convened its Pathways Matter Network with 21 participants from six focus states—Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, South Carolina and Texas—representing state departments of education, workforce and higher education organizations and other stakeholder groups. The group explored ExcelinEd's [Pathways Matter](#) policy framework, discussed credentials of value and reviewed the Return on Investment (ROI) Analysis case studies from Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee.

*"I now better understand how to apply these great policy examples in ways that work for my organization and state."*

## ESA ADMINISTRATOR NETWORK

ExcelinEd's ESA Administrator Network convened three times this year with participants from 14 states. The administrators explored best practices for expenditure approvals and reimbursement processing; in-state partnerships to strengthen outreach to parents; data collection; and strategies to measure program effectiveness.



## INNOVATION PARTNERS NETWORK

ExcelinEd convened its Innovation Partners Network three times this year with 20 representatives from 13 states to explore solutions to transform education. Participants learned about micro-credentialing in math (Kentucky); an online "instruction hub" of resources for districts (South Carolina); an in-state personalized learning network (Ohio); Schools of Innovation (Arkansas); alternatives to seat time (Colorado); grants for accelerating learning (Michigan); and portraits of 21st-century learners (Nevada, Utah, North Carolina and Kentucky).

*"I always walk away with great ideas."*

*"I learn more at this meeting than any other conference."*

*"Thank you for convening the group – it was so helpful for me as a new state-level administrator."*

## DIGITAL POLICY NETWORK

ExcelinEd's Digital Policy Network convened three times this year with participants from 16 states, national policy organizations and industry and partner representatives from Common Sense Media, Connected Nation, Learning.Com, AT&T, T-Mobile, Charter Communications, utility and communications provider Tennessee EPB and the Wireless Infrastructure Association. The group reviewed ExcelinEd's digital model policies and shared ideas on digital instruction strategies; implementing a state-level vision for education connectivity; and long-term planning for federal broadband expansion funds. The group also explored artificial intelligence (AI) in education and learned about Khanmigo, Khan Academy's AI-assisted tutoring tool.

*"This is an inspiring conversation."*

*"The most important takeaway was that we are dealing with similar questions and problems. Collectively working together, we can move everyone forward."*



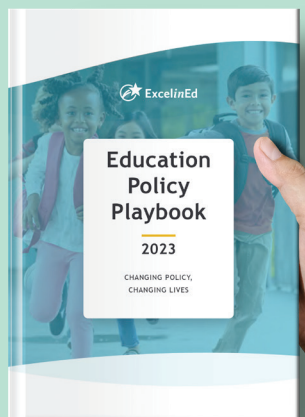
# Building Policy Expertise

ExcelinEd launched its Education Policy Resident Program as a new, professional growth program for those pursuing a career in education policy and aspiring to make a significant impact on students' lives through effective public policy. Over the course of a two-year residency, participants are fully immersed in ExcelinEd's student-centered policy agenda and mission. Residents gain the essential skills, policy expertise, advocacy acumen, networking and mentorship opportunities, and dedicated career support for a thriving career as an education policy leader. The first cohort of four began their residency on November 1. A second is planned for April 2024.



## POLICY PLAYBOOK

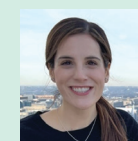
ExcelinEd's 2023 [Policy Playbook](#) provides a comprehensive toolkit for policymakers to learn about the best strategies for advancing student-centered education. Updated this year with math and teacher policy resources, along with an expanded suite of digital policy content, the playbook also serves as a reference document for state leaders assessing next steps in their work to improve education outcomes for all students.



## EDPOLICY RESIDENTS



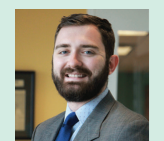
ARMAN SIDHU



KATRINA NOTARMASO



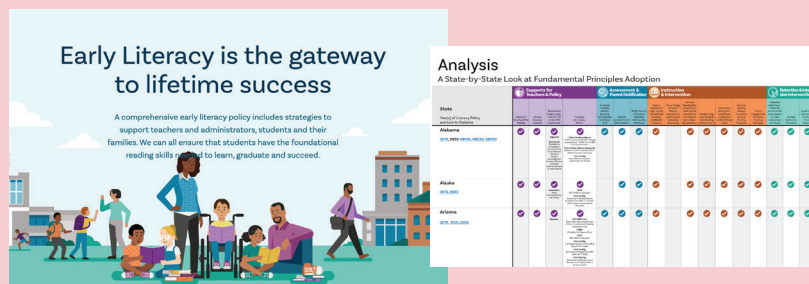
KYLE MORIN



RYAN DELLINGER

# Close Learning Gaps

## EARLY LITERACY MATTERS



### POLICY SOLUTIONS

ExcelinEd's newest policy website, [Early Literacy Matters](#), equips state policymakers and education leaders with comprehensive policy solutions for supporting teachers, administrators, students and families in improving reading skills for all students.

### STATE PROGRESS

ExcelinEd's [State-by-State Analysis of Fundamental Principles](#) evaluates states' statutes and regulations that align with ExcelinEd's fundamental principles in early literacy. These principles form a comprehensive approach to improving reading outcomes through state policy.

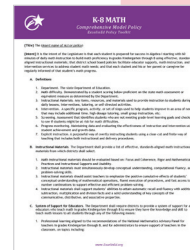
## CLOSING GAPS IN READING AND MATH

ExcelinEd Senior Policy Fellow Dr. Christy Hovanetz responded to the June release of [long-term trend results for reading and math assessments](#) by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) with [Three Policy Steps States Can Take Right Now to Improve Reading, Math Outcomes](#).



## POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR MATH & NUMERACY

ExcelinEd released its new [K-8 Math](#) policy with a toolkit of four key resources:



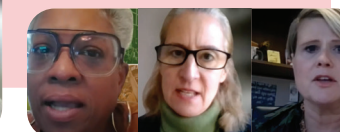
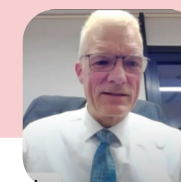
- [Fundamental Principles: It Adds Up to Algebra I Readiness](#)
- [Comprehensive Model Policy](#)
- [Model Policy: Instruction and Departmentalization](#)
- [Model Policy: Extra Time](#)

Gov. Bush emphasized the need for stronger math policies in his USA Today op-ed '[Take your kids out of these schools](#).'



## NATIONAL MATH DATA ROLLOUT

ExcelinEd and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) co-hosted the release of [2022 Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\) math results](#), with focused coverage on U.S. performance. Gov. Bush joined OECD's Andreas Schleicher and the Hoover Institution's Dr. Eric Hanushek to explore the first set of international data on math performance post-COVID. CEO Patricia Levesque moderated a panel discussion with six experts on policy solutions to transform math instruction and performance and lead to rising student achievement.



## PROTECTING FOUNDATIONAL POLICIES

ExcelinEd continued to defend school accountability, raising expectations and comprehensive early literacy as essential strategies to improve student achievement. Op-eds to advance and defend accountability and literacy policy were published by Board members Gov. Bruce Rauner, [Florida Board of Education must give parents honest assessments](#), and Chris Cerf, [Lowering passing test scores is a parlor trick that hurts our kids](#). Gov. Bush and Dr. Kymyona Burk penned a joint op-ed, [Mississippi's literacy success a testament to the power of sound public policy, effective implementation](#), for Mississippi's Magnolia Tribune.

## LITERACY AND DYSLEXIA

Adding to ExcelinEd's suite of early literacy resources is a new model policy, [Identifying and Supporting Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia](#), to help states screen for and support students with risk factors for dyslexia. [Dyslexia: Overcoming the Action Gap](#) describes the need for this policy to ensure every child becomes a successful reader.



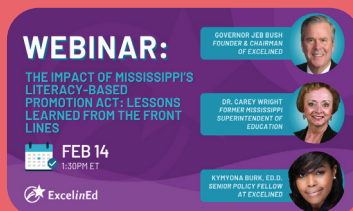
## RAISING AWARENESS ON EARLY LITERACY POLICY

ExcelinEd Senior Policy Fellow Kymyona Burk made the case for comprehensive early literacy policy, making national headlines with [Amanpour and Company](#), [The New York Times](#), [ABC News](#), [Washington Post](#), [CBS News](#), [PBS News Hour](#) and an [Education Week webinar](#). Dr. Burk also appeared in the [Right to Read documentary](#). Her work was recognized with PIE Network's 2023 [Weaver of the Year](#) award.

## RETENTION RESEARCH

ExcelinEd published new research, [The Effect of Retention Under Mississippi's Test-Based Promotion Policy](#), documenting the positive, significant impact of retention policies. Gov. Bush, former Mississippi Superintendent Dr. Carey Wright and ExcelinEd's Senior Policy Fellow, Dr. Kymyona Burk, discussed the new research on an [ExcelinEd webinar](#) that drew 400 registrants.

Dr. Wright and Dr. Burk also shared research highlights in an op-ed in [The 74](#), [New Study: Holding Kids Back One Key Factor in Mississippi's Reading Revolution](#). Dr. Burk also published [Tennessee should stay the course until every student can read on grade level](#), an op-ed commending the state's progress and the importance of retention and support for struggling readers.



## TEACHERS AND LEADERS POLICY RESOURCES

- ExcelinEd released its new [Teachers & Leaders](#) policy toolkit, with new resources to strengthen teacher pipelines and improve retention. Highlights include:
- [Reinvigorating the Teacher Workforce: Five Actions States Can Take Now](#) outlines policy options for bolstering the educator workforce.
  - [Teachers Without State Borders: The Importance of License Reciprocity](#) describes the [Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact](#), which will allow teachers to transfer their professional license to other Compact states.
  - The [Teacher Apprenticeship Act](#) provides new pathways to enter the teaching profession.
  - The [Advanced Teaching Incentive Program](#) creates advanced licensure designations for experienced teachers.

## EDUCATION FUNDING

ExcelinEd released new research and policy resources to ensure education funds have high impact on students who need the most support:

- Policy Report: [Supplemental Funding for Low-Income Students: 50-State Survey](#) documents how much supplemental funding states are currently providing for their low-income students.
- Policy Report: [Identifying Low-Income Students for Supplemental School Funding](#) provides new strategies for states to identify students needing supplemental support.
- Policy Brief: [Making Money Matter: The Growing Consensus](#) covers new analyses confirming that increasing overall funding for schools can improve student achievement, particularly for low-income students. An [accompanying tool](#) allows policymakers to assess where states are in adopting policies that maximize the impact of school funding.

# Strengthen Pathways to College + Career

## EXPANDING PATHWAYS MATTER

ExcelinEd's [Pathways Matter](#) policy tool was enhanced with ten new resources, including model policies and state case studies for Minnesota and Illinois. New website sections include [Pathway Navigation and Advising](#) and [Governance](#), which addresses alignment of state agencies, priorities and resources to support high-quality learner pathways.



## INNOVATION IN INDIANA

ExcelinEd board member Al Hubbard penned an op-ed in the Indianapolis Business Journal, [Indiana enacts historic policies to build a better workforce](#), highlighting the Hoosier State's groundbreaking new program: Career Scholarship Accounts. These innovative ESA-type accounts provide funds for students to use on work-based learning, apprenticeships and postsecondary acceleration.

## LAUNCH INITIATIVE

In partnership with Advance CTE, Education Strategy Group, Jobs for the Future and New America, ExcelinEd developed a new college and career pathways initiative, [LAUNCH: Equitable and Accelerated Pathways for All](#). Introduced with a [partner webinar](#), LAUNCH is helping state and regional leaders improve access and outcomes of learner pathways and sharing innovations and state solutions. The initiative's first Summit was held in October with nearly 200 attendees from 24 states and 124 organizations.



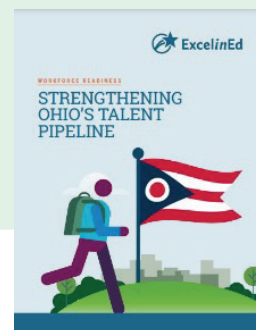
## PATHWAY NAVIGATION & ADVISING

Joined by 10 states and 16 advocacy organizations, ExcelinEd hosted a [webinar](#) on the critical role that pathway navigation and advising plays in each learner's journey from K-12 into postsecondary and career. Guest speakers were from the Indiana Department of Education and The Ayers Foundation.



## SUPPORTING OHIO'S PROGRESS

In partnership with Ohio Excels, ExcelinEd published [Workforce Readiness: Strengthening Ohio's Talent Pipeline](#). The policy brief provides Ohio with a roadmap to continue building on progress in helping its students gain essential skills for in-demand, high-quality jobs. ExcelinEd also published [Strengthening Ohio's Broadband Workforce: A Conversation with Lt. Gov. Husted](#).



# Empower Families with Opportunity

## POLICY IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

ExcelinEd provided technical assistance to Arkansas with implementation of its newly adopted universal education scholarship account program. Hands-on support included customized program launch timelines, landscape analyses, draft program regulations and guidelines, procedure advising and parent communications. ExcelinEd provided implementation advice for all states by highlighting 10 essential activities in [How to Implement a Private School Choice Program](#).

## MEETING CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS

ExcelinEd built on its facility financing analyses for Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee to evaluate how the facility needs of charter schools in Idaho are being met. [Building for Success in Idaho](#) identified current support and strategies for improvement, especially as charter school enrollment is projected to grow statewide.



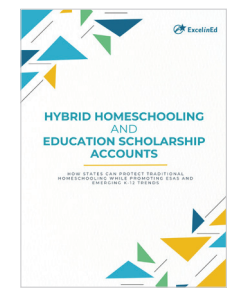
## STARTING NEW SCHOOLS

ExcelinEd released a first-of-its kind guide, [How to Start a Private School in Florida](#), to provide school founders with advice in creating unique schools that serve the needs of all students.



## ESAs FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

ExcelinEd's [Hybrid Homeschooling and Education Scholarship Accounts](#) includes policy solutions and 15 state profiles to showcase how states can protect traditional homeschooling while also promoting ESAs and emerging K-12 trends that expand learning opportunities.



## ADVANCING PARENTAL CHOICE POLICY

Gov. Bush engaged in national and statewide conversations to advance educational opportunities through school choice. He published op-eds in the *Wall Street Journal*: [School Choice Is Sweeping the Nation From Florida to Utah](#) and the *National Review*: [Republican States Are Leading the Way toward Educational Freedom](#) and spoke on the "Students Over Systems" podcast: [Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush: Opportunity Scholarships and BHAGs](#).

In a speech to South Carolina policymakers, Gov. Bush also focused on opportunity: [Jeb Bush encourages SC Republicans to march ahead on private and public school choice](#).



Patricia Levesque spoke on an EdChoice podcast on [The History of Choice in Florida](#) and published a related blog: [Early Lessons & Questions to Ask: Implementing Universal School Choice](#).



# Bridge the Digital Divide

## ADVANCING DIGITAL POLICIES

Informative blogs expanded understanding and highlighted digital policy actions for state leaders:

- [Federal Broadband Implementation Requires Next-Gen Workforce](#) highlights policy actions state leaders can use to meet the growing need for a broadband workforce.
- [Making Informed Decisions: Choosing the right ed-tech tools for student success](#)
- [Quantifying the Digital Divide: Surprising Disparities in Broadband Affordability Across U.S. States](#) covers new research confirming that broadband affordability issues continue to hinder students.

## WEBINAR ON DIGITAL CAREERS

Featuring policy experts from Ohio, Georgia and South Carolina, ExcelsinEd hosted a webinar exploring education and training programs that align with digital workforce needs. The session built on ExcelsinEd's policy toolkit, [Bridging the Digital Divide: Strengthening the Broadband Workforce](#).



## MODEL POLICY TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

ExcelsinEd's model policy, [Closing the Digital Divide in Education Act](#), includes strategies and policy resources to improve infrastructure, create partnerships, expand student opportunities and more firmly establish digital teaching and learning.

## VIRTUAL LEARNING

[How Can States Leverage the Promise of Virtual Learning](#) outlines five key steps for providing effective, sustainable virtual learning, creating flexible and personalized learning experiences and increasing access to education for students in remote areas.



## SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY

Communicating to eligible families about the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) continues to be the largest barrier to implementing this important program, which gives students access to online learning. Building on work in 2022, ExcelsinEd developed additional [customizable resources](#) to help those serving communities in need to connect families with reliable broadband services.



## PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES FOR DIGITAL DEVICES

ExcelsinEd's new policy brief, [Statewide Contract Agreements to Support Digital Devices and Resources](#), outlines cost-effective strategies for districts and schools to acquire digital devices, software and broadband services. The model policy, [Competitive State Procurement for Digital Educational Resources Act](#), provides a comprehensive framework to support competitive procurement.

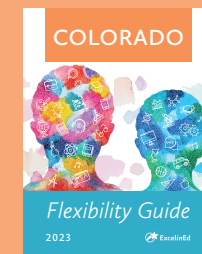
These resources were launched in an ExcelsinEd webinar, [Improving Digital Resource Selection and Sustainability through Statewide Contract Agreements](#), which also highlighted successes in North Carolina, Nevada and Utah.



# Reimagine Learning

## INNOVATION SUPPORT FOR COLORADO

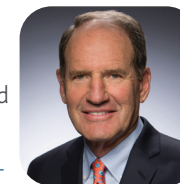
As part of its multi-year series, ExcelsinEd released the [Colorado Flexibility Guide](#) to give education leaders in-depth information on how to innovate and customize education for every student in Colorado. These include existing flexibilities in longstanding practices, such as assessments, and implementing newer approaches like online and blended learning. The guide was launched with a blog, [Transforming the Education Landscape in Colorado](#).



## REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

In her blog, [The World is the True Classroom](#), Patricia Levesque emphasized the value of experiences beyond traditional schooling to prepare students for in-demand jobs and successful careers. She also featured ExcelsinEd's model policy, [College Acceleration: Expanding Pathway Opportunities](#), part of the Pathways Matter suite of resources.

Board member Allan Hubbard highlighted this message with an op-ed on providing Indiana's students the support, training and skills needed for career success: [Indiana students need education that prepares for in-demand jobs now — and later](#).



## INNOVATIONS FOR TEACHERS

ExcelsinEd's model policy outlines a new approach for [Chartered Teachers](#) that gives educators an alternative to working in traditional schools yet retains them in the teaching profession. Chartered teachers work directly with parents to deliver personalized instruction to students on a full or part-time basis, retaining their status as a public employee and eligibility for state benefits.



## CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

An innovative policy solution, [Postsecondary Acceleration: Credit for Prior Learning and Credentials](#), recognizes skills and competencies gained in the workplace and awards academic credit for that. As a result, working adults—including military personnel—can accelerate their timeline leading to a degree or other credential. Three states—Colorado, Tennessee and Oregon—are highlighted in the policy resources for using this approach.



# Fiscal Accountability

AS WITH OUR FORMULA FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, THE FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION BELIEVES IN ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN OUR OPERATIONS.

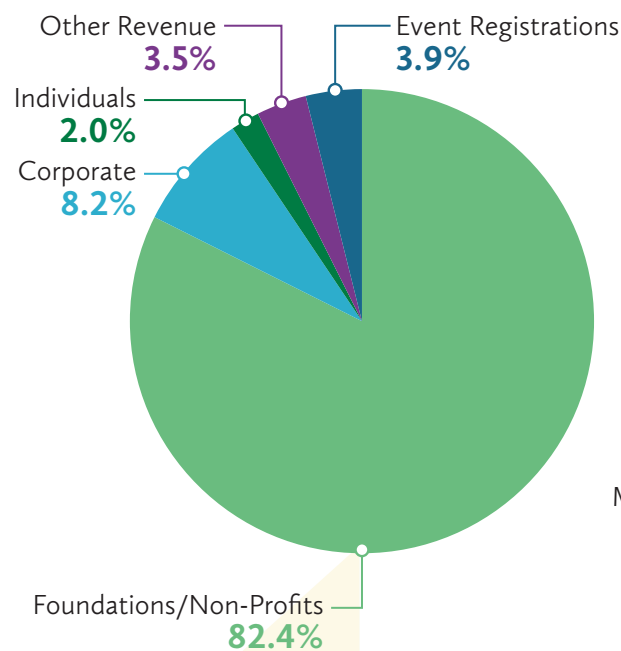
As trusted stewards, we are committed to sound fiscal management and maximizing the use of every dollar toward policy solutions that are increasing student learning, eliminating inequities and readying graduates for college and career.

In 2023, 82 percent of ExcelinEd's expenses were invested directly into our policy, advocacy and communications work to support states in transforming education.

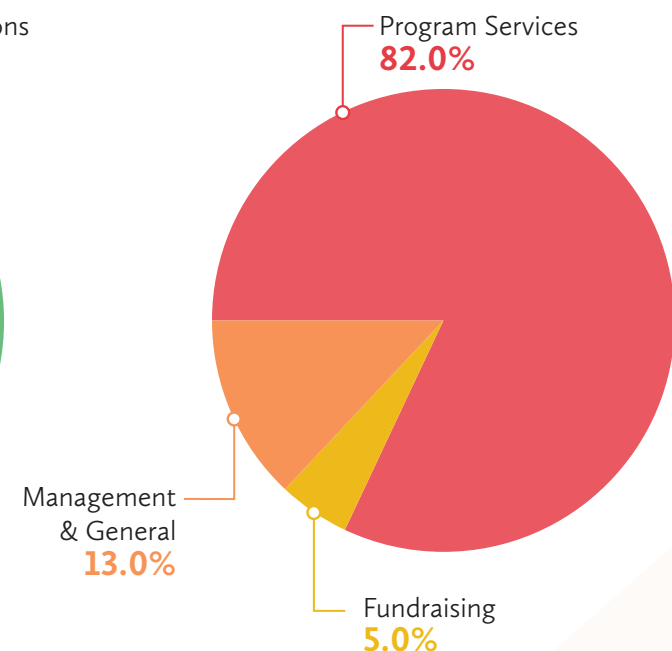


## REVENUE & EXPENSES

2023 REVENUE



2023 EXPENSES



# 2023 ExcelinEd Donors

We often think of education reform as policies written in legislation or 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.



WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO OUR DONORS WHO BELIEVE IN THE GIFT OF A QUALITY EDUCATION. WITH THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR WORK, WE ARE TRANSFORMING POLICY AND TRANSFORMING LIVES.


- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Reginald J. Brown                       | The Mondello Family Foundation                  |
| The Cobb Family Foundation              | Lovett & Ruth Peters Foundation                 |
| Anthony J. & Christie B. de Nicola      | Mr. W. Grant Williams III/The Sayers Foundation |
| The Evans Family Fund                   | Stand Together Fellowships                      |
| Golden Fleece Foundation                | Truist Wealth                                   |
| The Crown and Kunkler Family            | The Vestcor Family Foundation                   |
| The Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation | Yass Foundation for Education                   |

Together, we are making a difference.

Your financial gift supports our work to transform education and ensure success for each and every child.

[DONATE NOW](#)

The Foundation for Excellence in Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization.

# IN MEMORIAM

## Remembering a Titan of Education, Board member F. Philip Handy

Recognized by the State of Florida as a [“Titan of Education,”](#) Phil Handy was a founding member of ExcelinEd’s Board of Directors and the former Chairman of the Florida State Board of Education.

He leaves an extraordinary legacy of expanding educational opportunity for families, strengthening accountability and leading the charge for sound public policy in early literacy.

Phil’s decades of leadership and passion for excellence in education transformed the lives of millions of students and will forever inspire us.



*“Phil was deeply committed to transforming education in Florida and around the country. The ExcelinEd team and I are so grateful for his longtime leadership and unwavering support.”*  
—Patricia Levesque, CEO



*“Phil had an immensely positive impact in Florida. He was a trusted friend and mentor, whose relentless advocacy for student-centered education had a profound impact on me and countless others.”* —Governor Jeb Bush, Chairman

Florida Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran and Gov. Jeb Bush presented Phil Handy with the Titan of Education Award at ExcelinEd’s 2021 National Summit on Education.

SAVE THE DATE

2024 NATIONAL SUMMIT  
ON EDUCATION

◆ November 13-15, 2024 ◆  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



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

ExcelinEd in Action’s work nationwide in 2023 is highlighted in our [Legislative Impact In Brief](#) and the in-depth [2023 Legislative Impact Report](#).