State Policymakers Can Build Pathways for a Strong Workforce.

ExcelinEd

State policy is a critical lever for ensuring all learners—regardless of age—have access to high-quality, high-wage education to workforce pathways. Learner success requires pathways to align with in-demand occupations and include advancement opportunities. Policymakers must address gaps within their existing

programs and policies to strengthen the full ecosystem of policies across the K-12, postsecondary and workplace continuum. The only way to deliver learner success and create vibrant local, regional and state economies is by creating a comprehensive approach, not developing policies in isolation.



Learners Take Different Educational Journeys.



PROCESS

But it Requires Stakeholder Coordination and Awareness...



EMPLOYERS
Businesses of all sizes inform and support
programs, initiatives and
policies to ensure alignment with workforce needs.



INTERMEDIARIES
Community organizations, nonprofits, chambers of commerce, etc. connect an engage stakeholders and learners at ground level.



POLICYMAKERS
State legislators and governors develop and pass policies and programs to create opportunities



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Local, state and national
agencies implement
and manage policies
and programs.



Robust education to workforce pathways empower and engage learners from adolescents to adults.

POLICY

...to Design Policies that Create Opportunities.

6 FOCUS AREAS AND 21 KEY POLICIES A robust education to postsecondary to workforce continuum requires a comprehensive set of policies across learner journeys. Together, these policies create effective on and off ramps for students, which support individual learners and the needs of each state. Every stakeholder plays an important role in designing and effectively implementing these policies.



LEARNER PATHWAYS

Ensure vertical alignment to workforce needs, robust funding, collaboration across agencies and equitable access for all students.



POSTSECONDARY ACCELERATION

Streamline postsecondary learning and empower high school students to earn credit to reduce the time required to earn postsecondary degrees.



POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT

Reduce barriers—such as funding, lack of alignment and missed opportunities—to help more students attain postsecondary credential.



WORKFORCE READINESS

Ensure the skills, credentials and apprenticeships students pursue help to prepare a strong workforce within the state.



EMPLOYER

ENGAGEMENT
Incentivize workforce
engagement in student
pathways and reduce
the barriers that
keep employers from
participating.



DATA-DRIVEN DECSISION MAKING

To ensure the strength of all the other policies, there must be cross-sector agreement on outcomes, strategies to get there and data to track the progress.

