State Policymakers Can Build Pathways for a Strong Workforce.

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 can address gaps within their existing programs and policies to strengthen the full ecosystem of policies across the K-12, postsecondary and workplace continuum. States can deliver learner success and create vibrant local, regional and state economies by creating a comprehensive approach, rather than developing policies in isolation.

**LEARNERS TAKE DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL JOURNEYS.**

Though each pathway is unique to a learner, a state’s overall structure and supports must be constant, ensuring learners graduate with credentials and qualifications most valued by their intended employers. State policymakers can create a robust education to workforce learning pathway ecosystem that meets learners where they are and prepares them for long-term success—no matter what pathway they choose.

**PROCESS**

But it requires stakeholder coordination and awareness...

*...to Design Policies that Create Opportunities.*

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 to help more students attain postsecondary credentials.

**POLICY**

**6 FOCUS AREAS and 20 KEY 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 credentials.

**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.

**CONTINUUM ALIGNMENT & QUALITY INDICATORS**

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 progress.

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