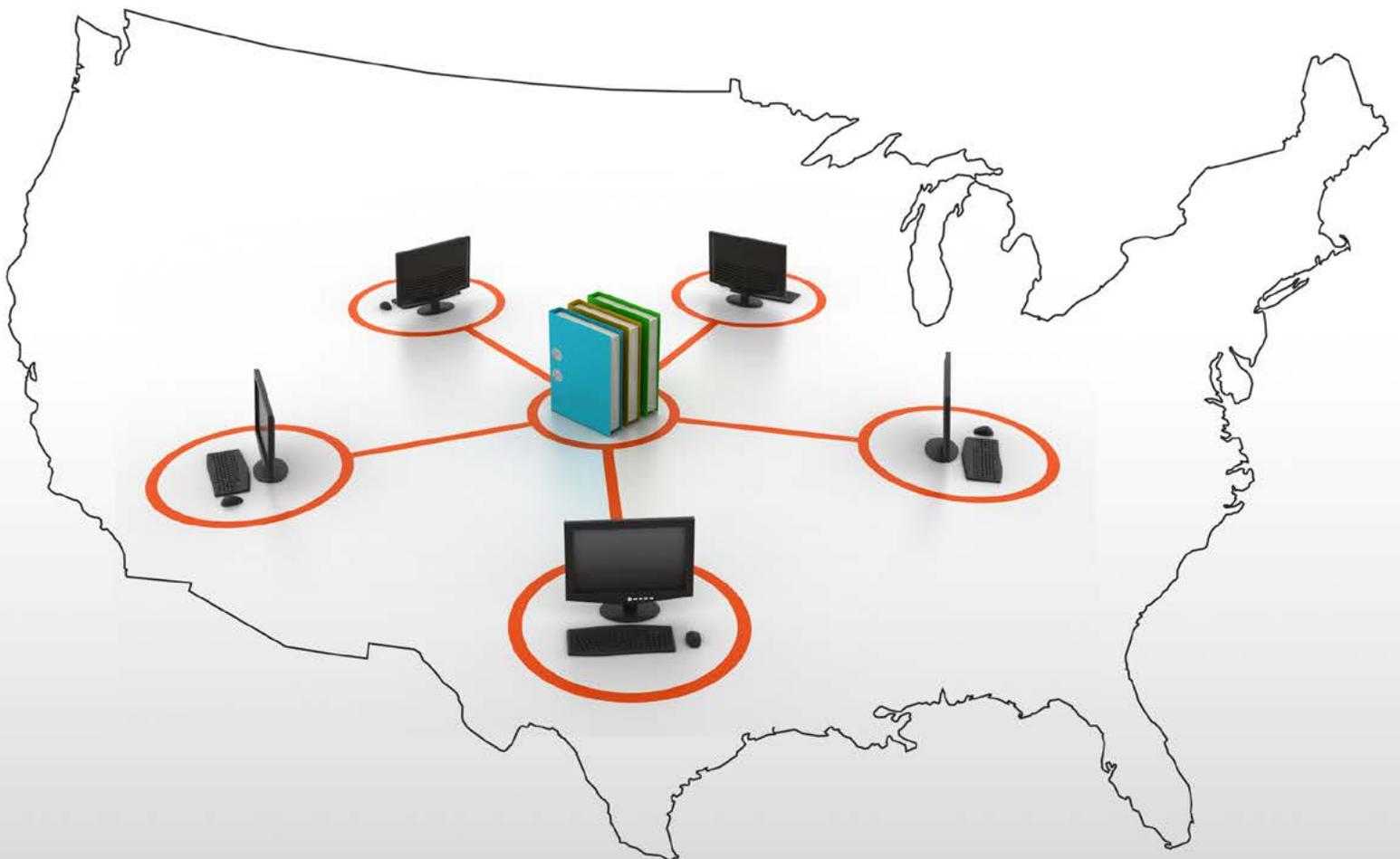# ECS Policy Analysis, Online Databases, and Publications
2012 Collection

eCs

Education Commission
of the States

2012 Policy analysis and documents

Click on the title to open each document on our website. To locate the document in this PDF, open the bookmarks link on the left side of the screen in Acrobat.

2011-12 Federal Budget: Department of Education Overview

Provides an overview of the 2011-12 federal education budget. Identifies programs that experienced significant funding changes from last year's budget. Showcases year-over-year differences in appropriations for key federal programs. (Emily Workman, January 2012)

Kindergarten Entrance Ages: Highlights

Updates StateNote originally written in 2011. (Stephanie Rose, January 2012)

12 for 2012

Previews the issues that ECS staff believe will be on state education policy agendas. 12 for 2012 is intended to stimulate thinking around how policymakers can drive change in 2012. (Jennifer Dounay Zinth and Matthew Smith, January 2012)

State Aid to Nonpublic Schools

Identifies state nonpublic school aid other than tax benefits, vouchers, and alternative tuition programs. (Christopher Leahy, March 2012)

Teacher Evaluator Training: Ensuring Quality Classroom Observers

Addresses the use of trained observers in creating high-quality teacher evaluation experiences. Provides examples of state and local approaches to training individuals responsible for observing and evaluating teachers. (Christopher Leahy, March 2012)

2012 State of the State Addresses: Governors' Top Education Issues

Highlights high-priority education issues outlined by governors in their 2012 state of the state addresses. Analyzes policy agendas related to increasing the quality and availability of education across the P-20 spectrum to spur economic growth and uplift citizens' well-being. Top issues include Education Finance, Teaching Quality, Postsecondary Access/Affordability, School Choice, Early Learning (P-3), and Reading and Literacy. (Emily Workman, March 2012)

50-State Mathematics Requirements for the Standard High School Diploma

Analyzes the high school graduation requirements for math. Notes two growing trends in state-set math graduation requirements—the growing number of states requiring four units of math to graduate, and the new trend of states specifying how and when math courses should be taken. (Jennifer Dounay Zinth, March 2012)

Third Grade Literacy Policies: Identification, Intervention, Retention

Examines policies to promote 3rd-grade reading proficiency, including early identification of and intervention for struggling readers, as well as retention as an action of last resort. Outlines case studies in both Florida and New York City, and identifies decisions policymakers must consider as they implement policies around 3rd-grade literacy. (Stephanie Rose and Karen Schimke, March 2012)

End of Course Exams

Identifies the states with current or pending state-level end- of-course assessment (EOC) programs, the subjects in which EOCs are administered in the states, and the EOCs (if any) students must pass to graduate from high school. (Jennifer Dounay Zinth, March 2012)

Service-Learning in the United States: Status of Institutionalization

Finds that inclusion of service-learning in state statute ensures such programs have validity and stability. Concludes that state education law is not enough, however, to guarantee the commitment of district leaders and school leaders and that the varying levels of support for service-learning among district leaders can lead to uneven implementation of these programs. (Ann Rautio, March 2012)

Survey of State Approaches to Suicide Prevention in Schools

Identifies the main policy approaches utilized by states to institute suicide prevention strategies. Offers examples of some of the more rigorous state approaches, programs developed by nonprofits, and evidence-based models. (Christopher Leahy, April 2012)

Reduction in Force Policies

Highlights the primary factors considered in state "reduction in force" policies, in addition to any secondary and tertiary factors that are to be considered thereafter. Draws attention to those states that strictly prohibit the consideration of tenure or seniority in layoff decisions, as well as those that permit tenure and/or seniority to be considered only when a tie-breaker is required for otherwise comparable teachers. (Emily Workman, April 2012)

Choosing Who Delivers: The Impact of Placing Limits on the Delivery of Remedial Education at Four-Year Institutions

Examines state and system policies that limit four-year institutions from delivering developmental education. Considers the potential impacts of these policies on student success. (Matthew Smith, May 2012)

Using State Policies to Ensure Effective Assessment and Placement in Remedial Education

Explores the limitations of commonly-used assessments for placing students into developmental education courses. Examines state and postsecondary system policies that regulate assessment and placement in light of emerging research. Suggests that states and systems could increase the success of underprepared students by supporting a broader suite of evidence-based strategies developed locally by institutions. (Mary Fulton, May 2012)

Service-Learning After Learn and Serve America: How Five States Are Moving Forward

Pinpoints the opportunities and challenges for the service-learning field, in light of the elimination of funding for Learn and Serve America and state budget shortfalls. Highlights how advocates across the country are seizing the opportunity to refocus efforts to deliver high-quality service-learning. Provides a set of case studies of how service-learning experts are designing and implementing agendas to maintain and advance statewide service-learning initiatives with no federal aid and no new state aid. (Molly Ryan, June 2012)

Surfacing the Top Ten Trends from the 2012 Legislative Session

Highlights 10 emerging trends in postsecondary education and workforce policy. Finds that legislatures are developing more policies related to workforce alignment, veterans' education, and adult learners. (Matthew Smith, June 2012)

Legislative Retrospective: College Completion and Workforce Policies from 2011-2012

Analyzes state policies and sorts them into framework categories developed by ECS' Boosting College Completion project. (Matthew Smith, July 2012)

Third Grade Reading Policies

Outlines state policies relating to grade-3 reading proficiency, including identification of, intervention for, and retention of struggling readers in the P-3 grades. Provides a state-by-state policy summary, sample statutory language, and highlights from bills enacted this year. (Stephanie Rose, August 2012)

A Problem Still in Search of a Solution: A State Policy Roadmap for Improving Early Reading Proficiency

Provides a framework to help state leaders and policymakers create more effective policies for improving reading performance of early grade students. (Kathy Christie and Stephanie Rose, September 2012)

Tuition-Setting Authority for Public Colleges and Universities

Finds that postsecondary systems and institutions set tuition in most states. Categorizes tuition-setting authority by entity (e.g., legislature, system, institution) and by postsecondary sector (e.g., two- and four-year institutions). (Matthew Smith, October 2012)

Vouchers, Scholarship Tax Credits, and Individual Tax Credits and Deductions

Provides details on current state policies related to vouchers and tax credits. Presents opposing viewpoints on use and efficacy of these policy mechanisms. Summarizes the existing research concerning these approaches and offers key policy questions for state leaders to consider. (Emily Workman, October 2012)

NCLC Schools of Success Network Shows that Service-Learning Quality Matters

Presents research from the National Center for Learning and Citizenship's Schools of Success program. Concludes that the quality of service-learning matters. Analyzes robust data from 19 schools across the country to show that high-quality service-learning has a significant and positive relationship with students' academic engagement, educational aspirations, acquisition of 21st century skills, and community engagement. (Paul Baumann, November 2012)

Education-Related Ballot Measures: 2012

Summarizes the results from the 35 state ballot initiatives voted upon during the November 2012 election that have either a direct effect on education policy in those states or could have an effect down the road. Includes analysis of enacted legislation requiring public approval and other education referenda. (Emily Workman, November 2012)

2012 Gubernatorial Elections: Outcomes and Education Priorities

Outlines the results from the 11 states and two territories that held gubernatorial elections this year. Presents selected education initiatives and legislation passed by incumbent governors, as well as highlights from newly elected governors' education policy platforms. (Stephanie Rose, November 2012)

The Progress of Education Reform
2012 Issues

Civic Engagement through Digital Citizenship

Examines the characteristics of digital natives and provides a summary of research about digital natives' civic engagement habits. Explores the implications of this research for education policy aimed at promoting digital citizenship for today's youth. (Paul Baumann, February 2012)

Defining College Readiness

Considers potential ways states might define "college readiness." Identifies potential benefits, drawbacks, and key components to consider. (Jennifer Dounay Zinth, March 2012)

Understanding State School Funding

Explains the key aspects of state school funding formula. Concludes that policymakers cannot make more effective allocation decisions without understanding the basics of their state funding system. (Michael Griffith, June 2012)

Technology in Early Education

Outlines trends in digital media use by young children. Examines partnerships between effective teachers and libraries. Provides guidelines for policymakers on building integrated technology platforms for early education. (Lisa Guernsey, New America Foundation, July 2012)

Producing Quality Credentials

Presents emerging research on the value of credentials. Highlights ways that states can use data and new, evidence-based institutional strategies to strengthen the fit between the production of postsecondary credentials and workforce demand (Matthew Smith, October 2012).

Teacher Expectations of Students

Reviews the research on the relationship between teacher expectations and student achievement. Explores how states can leverage policy to improve how schools are evaluating for, monitoring, and providing training to teachers on the potential negative effects of fixed teacher expectations. (Emily Workman, December 2012)

ECS Blogs

Boosting College Completion
Boosting College Completion for a New Economy is a two-year initiative of the Education Commission of the States (ECS) designed to move states from awareness of their college completion challenge to the development, implementation and evaluation of state strategies that increase college attainment rates.

Core Commons
Core Commons is designed by the Education Commission of the States (ECS) to serve as a resource to states, policymakers and the public on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. ECS tracks state progress on the development and implementation of common core strategies and policies. In addition, ECS explores the critical issues states encounter as they move to full implementation.

ECS Ed Watch
ECS Ed Watch is your source for innovative, ahead-of-the-curve state policy approaches and the best new research with significant implications for education policy.

Every Student a Citizen
Every Student a Citizen is a two-year effort of ECS' National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC). The project fosters the development of state-level policy agendas for civic learning and civic engagement in P-12 schools. Recognizing the critical nature of the civic mission of schools and the opportunities afforded by growing interest in this civic mission, we convened a series of regional meetings (June 2012) and provided ongoing technical assistance to support participants' efforts to propose, enact and implement state-level policies that support high-quality civic learning in P-12 schools.

Getting Past Go
ECS' Getting Past Go project helps education policy leaders align state and system policy to increase the college success of the large percentage of students enrolled at postsecondary institutions and who require developmental education. The Rundown highlights exemplary state policies and institutional strategies.

P-20 Blog
Based on constituent interest in the issue of P-20 alignment, ECS has launched The P-20 Blog—your source for news, policy and research related to state efforts to better align early learning, K-12 and postsecondary education efforts.

ECS Newsletters

e-Clips
ECS e-Clips gives you the day's top education news, as well as a link to Education Week's extensive daily news roundup.

e-Connection
ECS e-Connection is a weekly e-mail publication with links to key education information.

Citizenship Matters
Citizenship Matters, from the National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) is a bimonthly newsletter that focuses on ECS' work in improving citizenship education in our nation's schools.

Heads Up
Heads Up comes to you as a complimentary service from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Network News newsletter
Network News, a monthly publication for members of the District Leaders and Schools of Success networks, was created by the National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) at the Education Commission of the States (ECS). This publication provides practical strategies for K-12 quality service-learning design and implementation, important dates and events, and news of member advocacy efforts in the field.

Pre-K-3
A monthly dissemination of research and policy updates about developments in the Pre-K – 3 field

Databases

○ **50-state profiles capturing efforts to reform remedial education policy and practice (Getting Past Go)**
Contains a summary of developmental education policies and strategies in the 50 states and District of Columbia. Provides in-depth information about assessment and placement of students, delivery of remedial education, and the data that states collect to measure student and institutional success.

○ **State and system policies regarding remedial and developmental education (Getting Past Go)**
Summaries of state policies on developmental education. Sortable by policy level, policy type, year, state, and agency.

○ **Kindergarten (50 states)**
The information in this database was gathered by conducting statutory reviews across all 50 states and by surveying the kindergarten specialist in each state department of education.

○ **The 2012 State Education Policy Tracking Database**
In 2012, ECS added over 2,000 state education policy enactments on over 300 education issues. Staff update the database weekly. In total, this resource now consists of nearly 38,000 records, providing one-of-a-kind trends in education policy enactments since the 1990s. The state education policy tracking database can be accessed by keyword, by year and by state and is freely available anytime, anywhere from www.ecs.org. Monitoring policy changes on a national scale every week allows staff to identify ahead-of-the-curve policy approaches and keep you out front on critical issues confronting your state.

Research Studies Database ~ 2012 Additions

RESEARCH STUDIES DATABASE

Algebra: A Challenge at the Crossroads of Policy and Practice

Issue/Topic: Curriculum--Mathematics; Instructional Approaches--Tracking/Ability Grouping

Author(s): Stein, Mary; Hillen, Amy; Sherman, Milan; Kaufman, Julia

Organization(s): University of Pittsburgh; Carnegie Mellon University; Portland State University; Kennesaw State College

Publication: Review of Educational Research

Published On: 12/20/2011

Background:
Viewed as the gateway to higher mathematics, post secondary educational opportunities, and technically skilled jobs, algebra has been identified as a serious equity and civil rights issue. Because access to algebra in eighth grade positions students to enroll in a high school course-taking sequence ending in calculus by twelfth grade, the point at which students gain access is also deemed critical.

Purpose:
To provide an assessment of what we know about selective and "universal algebra" policies, including who is getting access to algebra and at what point in their educational careers. Also assessed is the knowledge base regarding what is taught in the name of algebra and the outcomes associated with different patterns of algebra course taking.

Findings/Results:

U.S. Trends for Who Takes Algebra and When, and What Algebra is Taken

- There has been a significant increase in eighth grade Algebra I enrollment over the past two decades. As a consequence, there have been small declines in the percentage of those students taking Algebra I in the later grades.