

2023 FEDERAL & STATE

Policy Agenda

Shift the Landscape Toward Innovative Learning Models, Student-Centered Assessments, and Next-Generation Accountability Systems

This document articulates what we believe to be the best policy levers to power our public education system to better serve all students. The policy ideas and recommendations presented here are intended to accelerate the growth of the model provider sector, strengthen state curriculum adoptions, create innovative assessments, and improve accountability systems to enable innovative approaches. These policy shifts are focused on removing barriers to innovation and improving how we assess student learning and measure performance so that the question is one of *when*, not *if*, all students become college- and career-ready.



Accelerate the Growth of the Model Provider Sector

Create a robust and sustainable ecosystem to develop, adopt, and implement innovative learning models at scale.

Federal Policy Priorities:



FUND THE SUPPLY for K-12 development of innovative learning models through targeted federal investments.



PROMOTE THE DEMAND for K-12 adoption of innovative learning models through targeted federal investments.



CREATE REGULATORY SPACE within federal policy for innovative learning models to emerge.

State Policy Priorities:



INVEST IN AND LAUNCH Innovation Zones and other viable pathways to promote the demand for innovative learning models and competency-based tools.



PROMOTE state curriculum adoptions that support competency-based solutions, including innovative learning models that integrate precise diagnostics, high-quality content, embedded assessments, and personalized instructional pathways that span multiple grade levels.



CREATE REGULATORY CONDITIONS within state policy for innovative learning models to emerge.



Create Innovative Assessments

Modernize assessment systems to measure comprehensive learning growth and support competency-based pathways for students.

Federal Policy Priorities:



REAUTHORIZE AND EXPAND the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to allow for new innovative assessment frameworks that would better support innovative



AMEND THE INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY (IADA) under ESSA to create the space for innovative learning models.



FULLY FUND IADA to encourage assessments aligned to curriculum-embedded student-centered learning models.



LIFT THE CAP on IADA to support assessments aligned to innovative learning models.



INCREASE THE FUNDING for the Competitive Grants for State Assessments (CGSA) program and prioritize competency-based designs that emphasize mastery of state standards.

State Policy Priorities:



BUILD alternative forms of innovative, competency-based summative assessments.



APPLY to an amended IADA.



Strengthen Accountability to Enable Innovation

Create the space for a complementary accountability system that maintains the overall objective of college- and career-readiness, allows for more personalized academic pathways, and provides a more precise way of measuring and rewarding learning growth toward mastery.

Federal Policy Priorities:



MODIFY ESSA to allow states to develop innovative accountability pilots to complement innovative assessments.



APPROVE state ESSA plans that weigh key transition points more heavily.

State Policy Priorities:



DESIGN next generation accountability that incorporates innovative learning models.



MODIFY state ESSA plans to incorporate multi-year growth metrics in school rating systems.



MODIFY state ESSA plans that weigh key transition points more heavily.