

2024 FEDERAL & STATE

Policy Agenda

Shift the Landscape Toward Innovative Learning Models and Personalized, Competency-based Tools

This document articulates what we believe to be the best policy levers to empower our public education system to better serve all students. 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. Accomplishing these priorities will require a sustained and integrated effort on the part of federal and state policymakers, whose collective work can enable a student-centered system of learning to ultimately emerge.



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 the development of K-12 innovative learning models through targeted federal investments.



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



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

State Policy Priorities:



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



ADOPT STATE CURRICULUM POLICIES that promote 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 SPACE within state policy for innovative learning models to emerge.



Create Innovative Assessments

Modernize assessment systems to support personalized, competency-based pathways for students.

Federal Policy Priorities:



AMEND THE INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY (IADA)

under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to allow for personalized, competency-based assessments that create the space for innovative learning models and competency-based tools.



FULLY FUND IADA to encourage assessments aligned to innovative learning models and competency-based tools.



REAUTHORIZE AND EXPAND ESSA to allow for personalized, competency-based assessment frameworks.

State Policy Priorities:



BUILD PERSONALIZED, COMPETENCY-BASED ASSESSMENTS

that could also be used for summative assessment purposes.



APPLY TO AN AMENDED IADA to implement newly developed personalized, competency-based assessments that create the space for innovative learning models and competency-based tools.



Strengthen Accountability to Enable Innovation

Overhaul the federal and state accountability system that maintains the overall objective of college- and career-readiness and support innovative learning models and competency-based tools.

Federal Policy Priorities:



APPROVE STATE ESSA PLANS that weigh key transition years, like grades five and eight, more heavily.



AMEND IADA to allow states to develop alternative accountability pilots to complement personalized, competency-based assessments.



REAUTHORIZE AND EXPAND ESSA to allow for alternative accountability systems that support personalized, competency-based assessments.

State Policy Priorities:



DESIGN NEXT GENERATION ACCOUNTABILITY to create alternative systems that support personalized, competency-based assessments.



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



MODIFY ESSA PLANS that weigh key transition years, like grades five and eight, more heavily.