Transforming Education to Unlock Lifelong Opportunity and Success for Each and Every Child
A Message from our Chairman

Across the nation, progress in transforming education is happening before our eyes. The year 2019 saw states, communities, teachers and parents successfully working to modernize our schools, expand opportunity and improve outcomes for students.

Yet only weeks after 2019 came to a close, the student-centered education policies we work to advance suddenly took a back seat to the health and safety of communities, with schools shuttered and many students no longer learning.

It is a time that is testing us. And it is demanding that we take a hard look and ask many difficult questions about America’s education systems:

Are students fully prepared for a purposeful and productive future? Are schools using technology and other resources to maximize every student’s opportunity to access content and achieve success? And are states holding schools accountable for student achievement? Do families have enough high-quality educational options to find the school that best works for their child?

I believe the policies and progress described in the following pages hold the key to those answers. ExcelinEd’s formula for success—built on innovation, opportunity and quality—is a proven approach for transforming education, no matter the setting. Student-centered policies can and do deliver results.

It is clear that America’s education status quo is receding fast, with unknown challenges still ahead. Children will be continuing their education in ways perhaps unimagined just a year ago.

Yet I believe their future is bright. State leaders are already taking steps to ensure schools and students can adapt and even thrive, with education policies and programs to overcome temporary setbacks.

In the year ahead, our commitment to support states—the incubators of innovation—has never been more important, with our pledge to act with vision, urgency and resolve. Thank you for joining us.

Onward,

Jeb Bush
Chairman, ExcelinEd

A Message from our CEO

Thanks to your partnership and generous support of our work in 2019, more than 600,000 children are newly benefiting from student-centered policies. Equally impressive, $600 million in new funding was added to states’ student-centered programs in early literacy, educational opportunity, computer science, and workforce and college acceleration.

These are inspiring numbers, yet they are far from what’s needed to reach every student with a transformative education. Parents everywhere know their children face real challenges in preparing for a successful future. They’re rightfully concerned that many of the skills needed in college and the workforce are not being taught in today’s classrooms. And from the vantage point of early 2020 and a pandemic-changed world, we know that too many students lack access to digital learning and the educational resources needed for success.

ExcelinEd has policy solutions to change that. We are actively expanding our research to support state leaders in managing and ultimately improving school systems. We continue examining whether workforce credentials offered in states actually align with high-wage, high-quality real-world jobs in those regions. We are exploring how more students can participate in college acceleration opportunities, and we are identifying solutions that address the skills gap in information technology and computer science. At the same time, the fundamentals of a sound education—reading and math—remain at the heart of ExcelinEd’s work.

We know from decades of experience that policy has the power to change lives. I hope you agree and that you’ll join us as we work to make a difference for students across the nation.

Patricia Levesque
CEO, ExcelinEd
EXCELINED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chairman of the Board & 43rd Governor of Florida

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Joel I. Klein
Chief Policy and Strategy Officer of Oscar Health & former Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education

About Excelined
Changing Policy, Changing Lives

Our Challenge
Organized around the needs of adults more than a century ago, America’s outdated education system is failing many of today’s students, leaving them unprepared for college or a career.

- Where U.S. students rank internationally in math. They also rank 18th in science and 13th in reading.¹

- The percentage of fourth graders that are not performing on grade level in math; 65% are not proficient in reading.²

- The number of first-year college students needing remedial help.³

- The percentage of U.S. Millennials that are unable to effectively apply literacy or math skills in the workplace.⁴

Our Solution
To address this education and economic crisis, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush launched the Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd) to support state leaders in transforming education so that all children are equipped for success.

Focused on educational quality, innovation and opportunity—both within and outside of the traditional system—ExcelinEd advances a broad range of student-centered policy solutions that are successfully:

- Increasing student learning
- Readying graduates for college and career
- Advancing equity

Our Approach

Convening Thought Leaders
We host the National Summit on Education to annually convene the brightest minds in education policy, and we facilitate networks of states and partner collaboratives to inform policy and practice.

Policy Development & Implementation
We bring deep policy expertise and implementation experience to develop and support state leaders with customized, student-centered policy solutions.

State-Specific Research
We conduct and leverage research to understand how policies translate to rising academic achievement, closing the equity gap, improved college and career readiness and real-world student success.

State Advocacy
We advocate for change in states that are ready to take the steps needed for transforming education systems.

Our Values
1. Programme for International Student Assessment
2. National Assessment of Educational Progress
3. National Center for Education Statistics
4. ETS

COLLABORATION
INTEGRITY
SERVICE
EXPERTISE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

ExcelinEd.org | @ExcelinEd

Annual Report 2019
Since 2016, your support and partnership have yielded:

- **5.7 million** Students Benefiting from Student-Centered Policies
- **$1.7 billion** New or Additional Student-Centered Funding
- **$79.8 million** New Funding for Private Choice Programs in 5 States
- **$267 million** Additional Funding for Charter Schools in 4 States
- **$11.25 million** New Funding for Computer Science Programs in 3 States
- **$93 million** New Funding for Workforce and College Acceleration Programs in 8 States
- **6 States** Strengthening Early Literacy Programs
- **13 States** With New or Improved Workforce, Computer Science or College Acceleration Policies
- **5 States** Enacting or Improving Next Generation Learning Policies
- **13** New or Expanded Choice Programs in 8 States
- **45th State** Enacting Charter School Policy (West Virginia)
- **2nd State** Enacting Choice Scholarships for Middle-Income Families (Florida)
- **69,000** Newly Funded Choice Scholarships in 6 States
- **250,000** Students Benefiting From $97 million in New or Protected Funding for Early Literacy in 3 States
- **42 States Engaged**
- **24 States** Implementation Support
- **62 Policies Passed/Improved in 21 States**
- **29 Policies Protected in 15 States**
- **42 States** Policies Protected in 15 States
- **24 Op-Eds for Policy Advocacy**
- **1.9 million** Social Media Impressions
- **58 Policy & Communications Resources**
- **5,200 Lawmaker Connections from 11 Advocacy Campaigns in 7 States**
- **31 Expert Testimonies in 10 States**
- **733,000 Email Impressions**
- **6.1 million Digital Campaign Impressions**
- **187 Bills Engaged in 29 States**
- **55 State & National Speaking Engagements & Webinars**
- **2 Voter Surveys in 2 States**
- **246 News & Blog Posts**
Convening the Nation’s Leaders

ExcelinEd’s annual National Summit on Education is the nation’s premier gathering of education policymakers, practitioners and advocates. More than a thousand state and national leaders convene for the event, providing an unparalleled forum for exchanging results-based solutions and strategies that can shape public policy so critical to transforming education. This unique conference annually serves as a catalyst for energizing and accelerating education improvements across the nation.

In 2019, the National Summit’s exceptional lineup of six keynote speakers inspired and empowered attendees to build a brighter future for our nation’s families. In addition to these keynotes, attendees chose from 49 in-depth sessions on pilots, practices and policy solutions that are creating quality, innovation and opportunity in education.

Teri Leszczynski welcomed attendees to the 2019 National Summit for Education Reform in San Diego, CA.

The Future of Education: A distinguished panel of state and national leaders discussed how American education systems must adapt to prepare students for success in the 21st century and the disruptive innovations needed for transforming today’s classroom into tomorrow’s ideal laboratory of learning. Panelists included the College Board’s Stefanie Sanford; former Mayor of Chicago Rahm Emanuel; America Achieves’ Jon Schnur; Tennessee Governor Bill Lee; and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Allan Golston.

“I loved it again. Thank you so much for everything you do for education!”
Representative Tama Theis, Minnesota House of Representatives

Dr. Jonathan Haidt, author of The Coddling of the American Mind, shared insights on how to help today’s students become the critical thinkers and resilient leaders we need.

Dr. Todd Rose, award-winning author of Dark Horse and The End of Average, offered insights on empowering students to lead lives of “passion, purpose and achievement” in a moderated discussion with former New Mexico Governor and ExcelinEd Board Member Susana Martinez.

Panelist Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of the Reverend Oliver Brown who in the fall of 1950 along with 12 other parents filed suit on behalf of their children against the local Board of Education.

65th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education: A distinguished panel of education leaders reflected on our nation’s progress over the past six decades and the hard work still ahead to advance educational equity for each and every child.

Panelists included 50CAN’s Derrell Bradford; Margaret Fortune, Fannie Mae Foundation; Education advocate Stephanie Cockrell; Cheryl Brown Henderson, The Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research; and Dr. Michael Lomax, United Negro College Fund.

“...can’t wait until next year!”
Dr. Michael Johnson, Alaska Commissioner of Education

ExcelinEd CEO Patricia Levesque welcomed attendees to the 2019 National Summit for Education Reform in San Diego, CA.

ExcelinEd Chairman, Governor Jeb Bush, opened the National Summit with his vision for transforming education systems across the nation.

ExcelinEd Chairman, Governor Jeb Bush, engaged in a conversation with Education Post’s Chris Stewart on the impact of student-centered policies.

Sal Khan, founder of the worldwide Khan Academy, highlighted online innovations for supporting teachers and informing classroom practice. For his transformative action to bring free, online learning to anyone, anywhere, Sal received ExcelinEd’s 2019 Excellence in Education Award.
**Strategy Sessions and Workshops**

#EIE19’s expanded range of strategy sessions and workshops included some of the hottest education topics, new ideas, first-of-its-kind research and proven policy solutions.

### #EIE19's Highlights
- 1,100 Registrants from 48 states and Washington, D.C.
- 95% of Attendees rated #EIE19's content as “A” (Outstanding) or “B” (Above Average)
- 3,600 #EIE19 Hashtag Uses by Nearly 300 Different Users
- 8,000+ YouTube Video Views

### Strategy Session: Two Codes All Kids Need to Know
Hadi Partovi, CEO and founder of Code.org, and Stefanie Sanford, Chief of Global Policy at the College Board, shared insights into the “two codes” a student must learn for postsecondary success: computer science and the U.S. Constitution.

### Field Trip: Innovations in Learning
The 2019 National Summit featured a field trip for attendees to see education innovation in action and engage with district leaders, teachers, students and principals. Sponsored by Myers-Briggs, the field trip’s 70+ participants toured three schools in the Cajon Valley Union School district where personalized education helps develop students’ interests and career choices that reflect their individual strengths, interests and values.
The Future of Education

National School Choice Week 2019

Joined more than 10.8 million people across the country to celebrate educational opportunity.

Utah’s Sutherland Institute hosted Governor Bush at a convening of business, industry, legislative and community leaders, including Governor Gary Herbert, to discuss policies with the potential to transform education.

Mackinac Policy Conference
Governor Bush gave an address, The Education Crisis – Change Is Possible, at the Mackinac Policy Conference in northern Michigan, advocating for thoughtful change, bold accountability and ambitious school choice opportunities.

Bipartisan Testimony to Congress
ExcelinEd Senior Policy Fellow Christy Hovanetz, Ph.D. joined the bipartisan House Dystlexia Caucus in Washington, D.C., for a briefing on the science of reading.

The Future of Education
Utah’s Sutherland Institute hosted Governor Bush at a convening of business, industry, legislative and community leaders, including Governor Gary Herbert, to discuss policies with the potential to transform education.

EduCommentary

School Choice Advocacy
Published op-eds from board members Eric Cantor, Time to let families lead the way in education, and Gary Chartrand, Parents want the opportunity to choose the best school for their kids.

Voices for Education
Featured in two Florida podcasts: Voices4Ed and the James Madison Institute’s Pundits on the Porch, to share views on the success and expansion of educational opportunity in Florida. Also appeared on Michigan’s The Big Show radio broadcast on early literacy.

EduResearch, Surveys & Resources

IT + CS Business Advisory Council Report
ExcelinEd and Code.org established an IT + CS Business Advisory Council. The Council’s report identifies what businesses, education leaders and policymakers can do to address the skills gap in information technology and computer science.

Demand for Education Choice
Commissioned opinion surveys in Florida and Alabama on private education choice. In both states, more than 70% of respondents support expanding educational choice to more students. In Alabama, almost two-thirds also support open enrollment and expanding charter schools.

Evidence that Private School Choice Works
Supported new research by the Urban Institute, The Effects of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program on College Enrollment and Graduation, that found children participating in the scholarship program are more likely than their peers to enroll in college and earn a degree.

Improving Teacher Quality
Published a policy brief, Micro-Credentials: A Game-Changing Opportunity for States to Support the Professional Growth of Teachers.

#AskExcelinEd
Continued the popular #AskExcelinEd blog series throughout the year, focusing on in-demand topics each week such as computer science, early literacy and workforce readiness. Featured 5 Steps to Maximize Career and Technical Education Funding as the 100th post.

#FactFriday
Produced a weekly #FactFriday series of infographics on education topics with 44 entries throughout the year.
Reading is the Gateway to Learning

A comprehensive reading policy that begins in kindergarten to ensure students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade.

Early literacy continued to garner state-level support in 2019, with ExcelinEd’s Early Literacy Network of state education agencies growing in size and scope to support successful policy implementation across the country. Six states strengthened their policies in 2019, with Alabama adding new literacy supports for schools and teachers. Idaho doubled its investment in early literacy to $26 million, and Nevada committed $63 million over two years to its Read-by-3 early literacy program. Colorado increased accountability, transparency and teacher supports for its READ Act, while Georgia added a statewide screening program to detect dyslexia in kindergartners and identify struggling readers. Several other states, including Florida and Mississippi, took steps to protect their early literacy policies during the year.

ExcelinEd’s Early Literacy Network

The Early Literacy Network was formed in 2015 as a collaborative forum for State Education Agency literacy leaders and reading program specialists who are directly responsible for implementing comprehensive early literacy policy and programs. The Network convenes quarterly to discuss current practices, troubleshoot challenges and share lessons learned for effective policy and program implementation. Membership has steadily grown to 46 members representing 16 states:

- Alabama
- Idaho
- Nebraska
- Ohio
- Arizona
- Indiana
- Nevada
- Oklahoma
- Colorado
- Mississippi
- New Mexico
- South Carolina
- Florida
- Michigan
- North Carolina
- Tennessee

ExcelinEd engaged in 25 states

Policy Engagement
- Reflects states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation.

Policy Passed or Improved
- Reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve K-3 reading policies.

Policy Implementation
- Reflects states where ExcelinEd provided technical assistance and policy expertise to support K-3 reading policy and program implementation.

ExcelinEd provided us with national data, national trends that will impact our state, and national contacts that allow us to share resources and ideas across states to improve literacy for all students.”

SEAN ROSS
Director of K-12 Language Arts
Arizona Department of Education

“ExcelinEd has been a helpful ally in supporting our early literacy initiatives, and we look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of Mississippi.”

CAREY M. WRIGHT, Ed.D.
Mississippi State Superintendent of Education

End the Reading Wars, Now!


With generous and sustained support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, ExcelinEd supported state literacy leaders to explore in-depth the impact of K-3 reading policy and to produce state-customized communications tools, including Spanish-language resources.

Two Impact Studies: Assessing Mississippi and Michigan K-3 Reading Policies Quantitative and qualitative research helps states evaluate the effectiveness of existing K-3 reading programs and identify areas for improvement.

ExcelinEd.org | @ExcelinEd

Annual Report 2019
A-F School Grading Drives Student Success

Transparent, objective school accountability systems increase student performance and spur school improvement.

ExcelinEd engaged in 20 states during 2019 to support school accountability policies, providing technical assistance on policy implementation, notably in Arizona and Mississippi. In state actions, North Carolina improved its accountability policy by adding elements of ExcelinEd’s Fewer, Better Tests assessment policy, and Tennessee upheld its commitment to measurement as the state transitions to new assessments in 2020.

To improve and strengthen accountability systems, ExcelinEd research is underway to explore the evolution of accountability systems that uphold academic rigor while also providing parents and others with valued information about their schools.

State Spotlight on School Accountability: Florida

Rigorous accountability policy has made Florida a national leader in improving student learning. The state’s fourth graders now rank 6th in the nation in reading achievement, improving by two grade levels since A-F school grading was implemented. In math achievement, they rank 4th in the nation, an improvement of three grade levels in that same timeframe.

**SCALE SCORE IMPROVEMENT THROUGH 2019 SINCE IMPLEMENTING A-F GRADES IN 1999**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4th Grade Reading</th>
<th>4th Grade Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+30</td>
<td>+18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+19</td>
<td>+7</td>
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</table>

Source: 2018 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

ExcelinEd released a policy brief demonstrating that an accurate picture of school performance requires focusing on both proficiency and growth.

PAM STEWART
Florida Commissioner of Education (2013-2018)

**POLICY SOLUTIONS**

ExcelinEd promotes school accountability systems that measure what matters: overall student performance and progress, with extra focus on struggling students, and graduation rates and college and career readiness.

Elements of a rigorous school grading system:

- **Clear Descriptors**
- **Outcome-Based Measures**
- **Proficiency & Growth**
- **Attention on Low-Performing Students**
- **Timely Reporting**
- **Communicating with Parents**
- **Recognition**
- **Support & Intervention**

**STATE ADVOCACY AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT**

ExcelinEd engaged in 20 states during 2019 to support school accountability policies, providing technical assistance on policy implementation, notably in Arizona and Mississippi. In state actions, North Carolina improved its accountability policy by adding elements of ExcelinEd’s Fewer, Better Tests assessment policy, and Tennessee upheld its commitment to measurement as the state transitions to new assessments in 2020.

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**GROWTH MODELS SUMMARY**

Criterion-based growth models are the fairest way to show students and their parents how much students have grown. They measure student growth toward proficiency and advanced achievement during the year. This expectation measures whether the student has the demonstrated growth to ensure they are ready for opportunities post high school.

“\[If we don’t have a strong accountability system, then students from low-income families and students of color will not receive the instruction and resources needed to be successful.\]”

PAM STEWART
Florida Commissioner of Education (2013-2018)

**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**


**ESSA Policy Brief**

ExcelinEd examined the key role of states in connecting districts with high-quality school turnaround partners.
Putting Students at the Center of Education Funding

Policies that prioritize each student’s learning by funding education in a way that is fair, transparent and promotes local empowerment and choice.

Student-centered funding saw a number of improvements in 2019, with Idaho establishing periodic reviews of the state’s public school funding formula, a significant step toward laying the groundwork for the state to transition to a weighted student funding formula. Tennessee enhanced financial transparency on how districts use funds intended for teacher pay raises.

Tennessee is very modest, with few defaults.

Public Charter Schools Need Access to Affordable Facilities

ExcelinEd’s research has identified a key strategy for states to meet public charter schools’ facility needs, a major challenge to charter school growth. States can help charter schools access affordable private financing to purchase their own buildings. Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Texas are backing bonds issued for charter schools to significantly reduce financing to purchase their own buildings.

The Commit Partnership’s Todd Williams.

Policies

Implement Student-Centered Funding

$ Funding follows the child, regardless of district boundaries.

Maximize Financial Transparency

Require districts to report, for each school, actual revenue and expenditures per student.

Use Performance Funding

Reward schools for student success, particularly with at-risk students.

Provide Fair Funding for Choice

Students get fair funding regardless of whether they attend a traditional public school or a public charter school.

ExcelinEd engaged in 13 states

Policy Engagement Reflected states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation.

Policy Passed or Improved Reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve education funding policies.

Policy Implementation Reflects states where ExcelinEd provided technical assistance and policy expertise to support education funding policy and program implementation.

Fair Funding in South Carolina

ExcelinEd partnered with Palmetto Promise Institute to release a policy brief, Fairness & Opportunity: Bringing Student-Centered Education Funding to South Carolina Students, to identify solutions for funding disparities between districts and inequitable education for students.

The Pension Crisis: What’s Hurting Classrooms Now Will Only Worsen—Unless States Act

2019 National Summit Strategy Session featured Education Counselor Sandi Jacobs, Michigan Senator Phil Pavlov, Pivot Learning’s Dr. Arun Ramanathan and Equable Institute’s Anthony Randazzo.

“ExcelinEd’s expertise was invaluable in Texas as we worked, successfully, to add outcomes funding to our state’s school reform legislation this year.”

TODD WILLIAMS

Chairman and CEO, The Commit Partnership

Savings from Affordable Financing (200 Charter Schools)

$6.04 billion With State Support

$8.85 billion Without State Support

$6.04 billion With State Support

$8.85 billion Without State Support

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Student-Centered funding in New Hampshire

ExcelinEd published a policy brief analyzing school funding in New Hampshire with meaningful steps policymakers can take to make it more student centered.

An Equitable Education: Serving the Underserved

2019 National Summit Strategy Session featured Thomas B. Fordham Institute’s Michael Petrilli, Stanford University’s Michael Kirst, Georgetown University Edunomics Lab’s Marguerite Roza, Education Trust’s Ary Amerikaner and The Commit Partnership’s Todd Williams.
Preparing All Students for Future Success

Policies that support all students to learn skills, attain college credit and complete a pathway to success in college and mid/high-wage, in-demand careers.

College and career pathways policies captured national attention in 2019, with 13 states taking action during the year, and another 10 states working on policy implementation, with ExcelinEd providing technical assistance.

Collectively in eight states, new funding for workforce and college acceleration programs totaled $93 million, with another $11.25 million for computer science programs in three states. Colorado, Mississippi and Ohio created or expanded incentives to boost industry credential attainment. Eight states, including Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee, expanded access to and training for computer science education.

In 2019, Florida enacted a comprehensive workforce education package, serving as a model to other states, and advanced early college opportunities for high schoolers.

In 2019, Florida, Connecticut, Florida, and Tennessee, expanded access to and training for computer science education.
In policy improvements, Utah added mastery-based learning to its innovation in education program. And added financial incentives for schools to design transformational learning programs.

Colorado

With participation of in Ed has assembled a growing network of states to exchange collaboratively focuses on common issues and customized solutions to support the states’ activities.

Launch, strengthen or expand innovation or pilot programs to support incubation and scaling of new learning models and strategies

Create innovation zones, provide innovation-focused grants or offer official innovation school/district designations

Clear away unnecessary policy obstacles:
- Align higher education requirements
- Provide assessment flexibility
- Dismantle outdated seat-time requirements

Join ExcelinEd’s Network of State Innovation Partners

ExcelinEd's Network of State Innovation Partners

ExcelinEd has assembled a growing network of states to exchange ideas, strategies and best practices for giving schools the support and flexibility to develop new, student-centered models of learning. With participation of 39 states in 2019—each with diverse programs at varying stages of implementation—the Network of State Innovation Partners collaboratively focuses on common issues and customized solutions related to next generation learning. Throughout the year, ExcelinEd hosts network convenings and provides national and state-specific resources to support the states’ activities.

“Having the flexibility to innovate with a student-centered approach will allow schools to better prepare students for future success and lifelong learning. ExcelinEd’s input will be invaluable in making this happen.”

Indiana Senator Jeff Raatz
Senate Education Committee Chair

In 2019, ExcelinEd published State Progress Toward Next Generation Learning: A National Landscape that identifies next generation learning programs in 33 states and Washington, D.C. and the seven key policy components that facilitate innovation.

ExcelinEd released policy research, Debunking the Myth of Seat-Time: A National Analysis of Seat-Time Requirements for Credit, finding that far more flexibility exists in state policies than originally thought and that schools are more free to innovate than many believe.

As part of the policy brief series, Transitioning to Student-Centered Learning: Policy Solutions for States, ExcelinEd published Waivers and Flexibility Requests, outlining steps that states can take to ensure schools and districts can access and utilize the flexibilities needed to innovate.

ExcelinEd engaged in 24 states

Policy Engagement
Reflects states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation.

Policy Passed or Improved
Reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve next generation learning policies.

Policy Implementation
Reflects states where ExcelinEd provided technical assistance and policy expertise to support next generation learning policy and program implementation.


ExcelinEd hosted a Florida NextGen learning pilot convening where representatives from two districts and P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School shared program updates, implementation strategies, challenges and solutions as well as plans for the upcoming school year.

ExcelinEd presented on NextGen learning at state and national convenings, including the Arkansas Innovation Summit, CCSSO Student-Centered Learning Collaborative, Institute for Quality Education and Aurora Institute (formerly iNACOL).
A number of states addressed the critical need for charter school facilities. Florida funded a record $2 million in facilities funding for state and locally authorized charter schools and also eased access to charter schools for students of active-duty military members. Louisiana, Indiana and Idaho also improved policies to address facilities funding or charter school access.

Facilities
- Ensure that charter schools have access to public school facilities or sufficient financing for an equivalent facility.

Funding
- Provide equitable funding so that public dollars follow students regardless of which school they attend.

Authorizing
- In addition to local school boards, empower new authorities, like public universities, to grant and oversee charters.

ExcelinEd published a policy brief, Addressing Charter School Facility Needs, that applied its education funding research and policy recommendations to identify actions states can take to address the widespread facility needs of public charter schools.
Creating Opportunity and Empowering Families with Education Choice

Policies that provide families with access to the school or learning environment that best fits their child’s needs.

Nationwide, ExcelinEd’s engagement on private school choice in six states helped support a total of 69,000 newly funded scholarships and nearly $80 million in new funding. Florida retained a leadership role with its suite of private choice programs for families across the state, including adoption of Family Empowerment Scholarships for low- and middle-income families. This new program attracted more than 18,000 students, the largest first-year enrollment in private school choice history.

Further, Florida added more than $23 million to its education scholarship accounts (ESAs) for students with special needs, allowing the program to serve 2,200 additional students and expanding the program to serve nearly 14,000 students at the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

State leaders in Tennessee created a new ESA in 2019 to serve 15,000 low-income students, becoming the first state in the nation to offer two ESA programs. Ohio expanded its voucher program to students in all grades, with $50 million in new funding to serve 10,400 students. Program improvements in Indiana gave 500 more students access to tax credit scholarships, and more than 500 students in Mississippi now receive an ESA as a result of expanded funding.

Expanding Access to Education Choice

In 2010, close to 183,000 students nationwide in 13 states had enrolled in private choice programs. Ten years later, enrollment has nearly tripled to almost 518,809 students in 28 states. Even as demand is great, access to education opportunity remains limited—and in many states is nonexistent.

A DECADE OF CHOICE

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Students Enrolled</th>
<th>K–12 Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>182,608</td>
<td>54.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>518,809</td>
<td>56.6 million</td>
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Source: U.S. Department of Education, American Federation of Children

POLICY SOLUTIONS

Three main policy solutions empower families with private education choice:

**Education Scholarship Accounts**

Flexible, state-funded spending accounts that allow parents to customize their child’s education.

**Tax-Credit Scholarships**

Private school scholarships funded by voluntary donations by businesses and individuals in return for a state tax credit.

**Vouchers**

State-funded coupons that parents redeem at private schools for tuition.

“Every student, regardless of their income or background, deserves to have access to a quality educational setting where they can grow and thrive. I believe we need to constantly challenge the status quo in education to ensure our students are prepared to be successful.”

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee

STATE ADVOCACY AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

ExcelinEd engaged in 29 states

- **Policy Engagement**
  Reflects states where ExcelinEd engaged in policy development, adoption or implementation.

- **Policy Passed or Improved**
  Reflects states where ExcelinEd in Action helped pass or improve public charter schools learning policies.

- **Policy Implementation**
  Reflects states where ExcelinEd provided technical assistance and policy expertise to support public charter schools policy and program implementation.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Tax-Credit Scholarship Program Design

Identified key considerations for creating tax-credit scholarships, including programmatic details, student eligibility, requirements for participating schools and academic accountability provisions.

Overview of Private Choice Policies

Published a comprehensive summary of the various types of policies that empower families with private education choice options.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

School Choice Collaborative

Now in its second year, ExcelinEd hosts a monthly collaborative of 80+ state and national partners actively engaged in educational opportunity to discuss new research, the latest policy approaches and best practices in state program implementation.

2019 National Summit featured Opportunity in Education Strategy Sessions:

- Workshop: Confronting the Opportunity Myth
- Parent Power! Changing Laws, Changing Lives
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

As with our formula for student achievement, the Foundation for Excellence in Education believes in accountability and transparency in our operations.

As trusted stewards, we are committed to sound fiscal management and maximizing the use of every dollar toward transforming education and increasing student learning, advancing equity and readying graduates for college and career.

In 2019, 79 percent of ExcelinEd’s expenses were invested directly into policy, advocacy and communications work in the states, supporting our Quality, Opportunity and Innovation policy programs as well as our flagship convening, the annual National Summit on Education.

We often think of education reform as policies written in legislation or rules enacted by elected officials and appointed boards. Rather, reform is a profound game changer in the lives of individual children, a gift that allows them to maximize their potential.

We are deeply grateful to our donors who believe in the gift of a quality education, and with their generous support of our work, we are transforming policy and transforming lives.

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