Who we are

The **essential, indispensable** member of any team addressing education policy.
What we do

We believe in the power of **learning from experience** and we know informed policymakers create **better education**
How we do it

RESEARCH

REPORT

CONVENE

COUNSEL
Reach Higher Initiative

Ensuring every student has access to important tools and people to support their academic planning

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Employment Trends by Educational Level

- High School Graduates and High School Dropouts:
  - 79% in 1964
  - 39% in 2014

- Bachelor's degree or higher:
  - 11% in 1964
  - 32% in 2014

- Some College or an Associate's degree:
  - 10% in 1964
  - 29% in 2014

Reach Higher Initiative

Percentage With a Great/Deal or Quite a Lot of Confidence in Public Schools

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State Education Leadership Turnover

Changes in education leadership across the country
2015: Leadership Changes

- 14 new Governors
- Nearly 18 percent new state Legislators
- 31 new Chiefs
- 16 new SHEEOs
- 95 new State Boards of Education
State Education Leadership Turnover

2016: Leadership Changes

- **Six new Governors**
State Education Leadership Turnover

2016: Leadership Changes

- Six Governors up for reelection
State Education Leadership Turnover

2016: Leadership Changes
- Three new Chiefs
- Four interim Chiefs

2016: Leadership Changes
- Four new SHEEOs
- Many State Board members’ terms ending
Components that impact education policies around work readiness:

- Student Readiness
- Access
- Quality
- Alignment
Career and Technical Education

Aligning education programs to meet workforce needs
Career and Technical Education

Nationally:
Since 2013, many states have continued to work to align programs with workforce needs.

State:
Significant numbers of policies passed and significant changes to CTE programs in states, but lacking a comprehensive approach.
Career and Technical Education

ECS Work and Resources

Work:
- ECS identified 10 key aspects of an approach to high school CTE policy

Report:
- Aligning K-12 and Postsecondary Career Pathways with Workforce Needs
- Targeted programs and career pathways within workforce development policies
- The Progress of Education Reform: Career and Technical Education: States Aligning Programs to Meet Workforce Needs
Creating more seamless transitions from high school to college and the workforce for students
Dual Enrollment

Figure A. College Enrollment Rates in the First Fall after High School Graduation, Class of 2012

- Low Income, High Minority, Urban Schools: 70%
- Low Income, Low Minority, Urban Schools: 65%
- Low Income, Rural Schools: 62%
- Higher Income, High Minority, Urban Schools: 55%
- Higher Income, Low Minority, Urban Schools: 53%
- Higher Income, Rural Schools: 50%
Dual Enrollment
Nationally: Every state offers dual enrollment programs, but policies vary by state.

State: Policy alignment with ECS’ model policy components supports greater student participation in dual enrollment.
Dual Enrollment

ECS Work and Resources

Work:
- ECS created 13 model state-level policy components

Report:
- State approaches to funding dual enrollment
- Dual Enrollment Course Content and Instructor Quality
- 50-State Comparison: Dual / Concurrent Enrollment Policies
Career Readiness

Providing opportunities to better prepare students for joining the workforce
Early College High School

Nationally:

A number of early college high schools across the country are supported largely by philanthropic funds.

State:

Close to 12 states have policies that provide dedicated state funding for these programs, including North Carolina and Texas.
State: Colorado has retooled pathways in advanced manufacturing and is looking to redesign pathways in construction and related trades, IT and health care.

Nationally: Discussions taking place across the country regarding the alignment of high school programs with postsecondary programs.
Career Pathways

Report:
- Aligning K-12 and Postsecondary Career Pathways with Workforce Needs
- Targeted programs and career pathways within workforce development policies
Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Nationally:
- State policies expanding work-based learning opportunities have increased

State:
- **Tennessee:** 2015 *Work-Based Learning Implementation Guide*
- **Indiana:** Indiana Career Council’s *A guide to Talent Attraction and Development for Indiana Employers*
You can’t be what you can’t see.

Nationally:

- Many states have made major investments to better inform counselors and staff of career opportunities and requirements

State:

- Texas and Utah have passed legislation to provide support for secondary school counselors
State:

In 2013, Indiana established partnerships between school districts, postsecondary representatives, and business and industry leaders.