



The Education Policy and Leadership Center

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Background of EPLC

The Education Policy and Leadership Center was established in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The Center has offices in Harrisburg, PA and began to operate on a full-time basis in January 1999. The corporation is governed by a board of directors that includes nineteen members who have significant experience with education policy, government and not-for-profit organizations. The Center conducts its policy and leadership programs in cooperation with numerous local, statewide and national organizations.

Mission of EPLC

The Mission of The Education Policy and Leadership Center is to encourage and support the development and implementation of effective state-level education policies to improve student learning in grades P-12, increase the effective operation of schools, and enhance educational opportunities for citizens of all ages.

Education Policy Goals of EPLC

Embedded in all of the activities of The Education Policy and Leadership Center is attention to EPLC's key education policy goals. All of the Center's work is focused to develop public policies and leaders that will advance the following six education policy goals:

1. *Improve the academic success of all students by strengthening standards-based reforms, including assessments and accountability measures.*
2. *Establish and maintain in Pennsylvania a statewide education finance system based upon principles of adequacy, equity, accountability, efficiency and predictability.*
3. *Build effective educational capacity to support learning by all students, with special emphasis on the need to ensure a qualified teacher in every classroom at all times.*
4. *Ensure that all Pennsylvania school districts and every school shall have school leaders who will promote and support high achievement for all students through effective instructional leadership, school management and governance.*
5. *Ensure that every young child in Pennsylvania shall have access to high-quality early education programs including pre-school and full-day kindergarten.*
6. *Ensure that all citizens of all ages shall have practical financial and physical access to a rich range of post-secondary educational opportunities.*

Three Core Strategies of EPLC

EPLC has developed and implements three discrete but complementary core strategies to support its mission. These three strategies are to:

Strategy #1 - Information

Link relevant and reliable research and other information to state-level education policymakers and others and to provide assistance with policy analysis and policy development.

Strategy #2 - Leadership Development

Develop awareness and capacity among policymakers, educators and community leaders to serve as advocates and champions for significant education policy issues.

Strategy #3 - Public Advocacy

Promote a public climate that expects and holds policymakers accountable to advocate, adopt and implement effective policies that advance significant education goals.

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2014 EPLC Policy Activities/Events

- Pennsylvania School Funding Project
- Arts and Education Initiative and Pennsylvania Arts Education Network
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention Project
- Career and Technical Education Project
- Monthly "Focus on Education" Show on Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN)
- Regional Policy Forums in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, State College, and Philadelphia
- 4th Annual Arts and Education Symposium – October 2, 2014

2014 EPLC Leadership Programs

- Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP)
- Parent and Community Leadership Institute (PCLI) Workshops offered regionally
- Public Policy Advocacy Institute - workshops and materials to build individual and organizational capacity for effective public policy advocacy
- Regional Education Issues Workshops for Legislative Candidates
- Planning 2015 Regional Education Issues Workshops for 2015 School Board Candidates

EPLC Publications and Information Resources

- EPLC Web Site, Facebook Page, and Twitter Page
- EPLC Education Notebook (tracks policy activity in Harrisburg)
- Pennsylvania Education Letter (policy analysis/commentary - monthly) *New in 2014!*
- Web-Based Education Policy Information Clearinghouse
- Policy Briefs on Selected Topics
- "ON Demand" Webinars
- Special Reports - *Creating Pennsylvania's Future Through the Arts and Education (2012)*; *Costing-Out Studies Across the Nation (2007)*; *The Condition of Higher Education in Pennsylvania (2006)*; *Strengthening School Leadership (2006)*; *Strengthening the Work of School Boards In Pennsylvania (2004)*; *Teacher Quality and Supply (2003)*

EPLC Provides Technical Assistance and Speakers

EPLC, upon request, will provide confidential policy analysis and policy development assistance to public agencies and state policymakers. The Center also will provide technical assistance to organizations, including consultation and facilitation services, for strategic planning and special projects and events. EPLC speakers are available to provide presentations about a broad range of education policy subjects to school district workshops, community forums, as well as conferences for education and non-education organizations.

EPLC as a Partner

EPLC frequently supports the work of other organizations by providing a speaker and materials for conferences and other programs. EPLC also welcomes opportunities to collaborate with other organizations in pursuit of mutual education policy objectives. These partners include a broad range of local, regional, state, and national organizations.

For additional information about EPLC, please go to www.eplc.org.