



Education Commission
of the States

2005
ANNUAL REPORT



2005

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EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

TABLE OF CONTENTS



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Message from Governor Mike Huckabee, ECS Chair	2
Message from President Piedad F. Robertson	3
Restructuring ECS for Enhanced Performance	4
2005 Performance Reports:	
Chairman's Initiative, Arts in Education	5
Information Clearinghouse	6
Teaching Quality & Leadership Institute	8
School Improvement Institute	10
Postsecondary Education & Workforce Development Institute	12
National Center for Learning & Citizenship (NCLC)	14
Government Relations	16
Communications	16
Planning, Development & Information Technology	17
2005 National Forum on Education Policy	18
2005 Steering Committee Meetings	19
Financial Reports:	
Statement of Financial Position	20
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Assets	21
Statement of Foundation, Corporation and Government Agency Support	22
2004–2006 ECS Officers & Steering Committee Members	24

Message From GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

ECS Chair 2004–2006

In its 40th year, ECS continued to further its mission to present policymakers with the information they need to provide a quality education for all students. ECS informed our constituents with research, best practices, and innovative policies through publications, meetings and responses to information requests. ECS' ability to bring together policymakers, state leaders and experts provides unique opportunities for a balanced discussion of the most critical issues facing America's education system.

This annual report describes the valuable contributions of ECS to policymakers in 2005.

Highlights include:

Responding to the needs of policymakers through events such as the 2006 Fall Education Legislative Workshop (ELW), which was developed in response to requests from governors and legislators for targeted information on key education policy issues. The ELW prepared legislators for legislative action during the 2006 legislative session.

Creating a high school policy center that responds to the needs of ECS constituents for more information on numerous areas of high school reform, such as high school graduation requirements and assessment.

Releasing *Diversifying Teacher Compensation*, which provides updates of existing programs and questions for policymakers as they consider redesigning compensation systems for teachers.



I am especially proud of my Chairman's Initiative – *The Arts – A Lifetime of Learning* – and appreciate the support of the Governor's Commission on the Arts in Education. This initiative has helped create awareness of the important role of the arts in improving academic achievement and preparing students for the creative economy while offering all students an opportunity to participate in the arts.

I have enjoyed my term as ECS Chair and wish Chair-Elect Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius godspeed as she leads ECS for the next two years.

Message from ECS

PRESIDENT PIEDAD F. ROBERTSON

President Robertson, right, hosts U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings at the 2005 ECS National Forum on Education Policy.



In the last two decades, federal government policymakers placed education policy at the forefront of our nation's public agenda.

Whether or not one agreed in principle with this expanded role of the national government, today's greatest challenge to education policymakers is to ensure that our policies reflect a coordinated singular focus on how best to respond to the educational needs of our nation's students.

ECS is well positioned to serve as a catalyst for coordination of efforts of education policymakers at all levels.

Our history of providing timely, professional and nonpartisan education policy analysis demonstrates that ECS is a unique resource to promote dialogue among policymakers.

During 2005, ECS underwent a comprehensive staff restructuring to enhance our ability to equip our state policymaker constituents with the critical information and policy analyses they need to meet the challenges presented by the new federalism. The changes included creation of internal

policy institutes focused on responding to the expressed needs of our policymaking constituents; greater involvement of our ECS commissioners in setting our policy analysis agenda; and streamlined reporting of financial reports, budgets and program plans to our commissioners.

This Annual Report describes in detail the results of the restructuring, the new leadership brought on board, the performance of staff units and plans for the future.

We invite all education stakeholders to join ECS in our efforts to provide our students the educational opportunities they deserve.

“ECS is well positioned to serve as a catalyst for coordination of efforts of education policymakers at all levels.”

Restructuring ECS for ENHANCED PERFORMANCE

Less Internal Paperwork, More Policy Analysis

- ✦ Eliminated executive vice president and vice president for policy studies and programs positions
- ✦ Established four focused policy institutes, headed by directors who are accountable for institute and staff performance
- ✦ Eliminated expensive and time-consuming staff evaluation system and focused staff evaluations on achievement of stated personal goals
- ✦ Hired professional grant writer to assist institute directors in grant solicitation and management of grants awarded to ensure timely completion of grant-reporting requirements.

Focus Policy Analysis on Needs Determined by Commissioners

- ✦ President conducted phone interviews of all commissioners
- ✦ Government Relations department conducted survey of commissioners
- ✦ Policy institutes created advisory boards, chaired by commissioners.

Provide Commissioners More Timely Financial Reporting

- ✦ Aligned fiscal year to calendar year – January 1-December 31
- ✦ Moved approval of Annual Report to the Spring Steering Committee meeting for more timely reporting.

Highlights Of Governor Mike Huckabee's CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVE: THE ARTS – A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

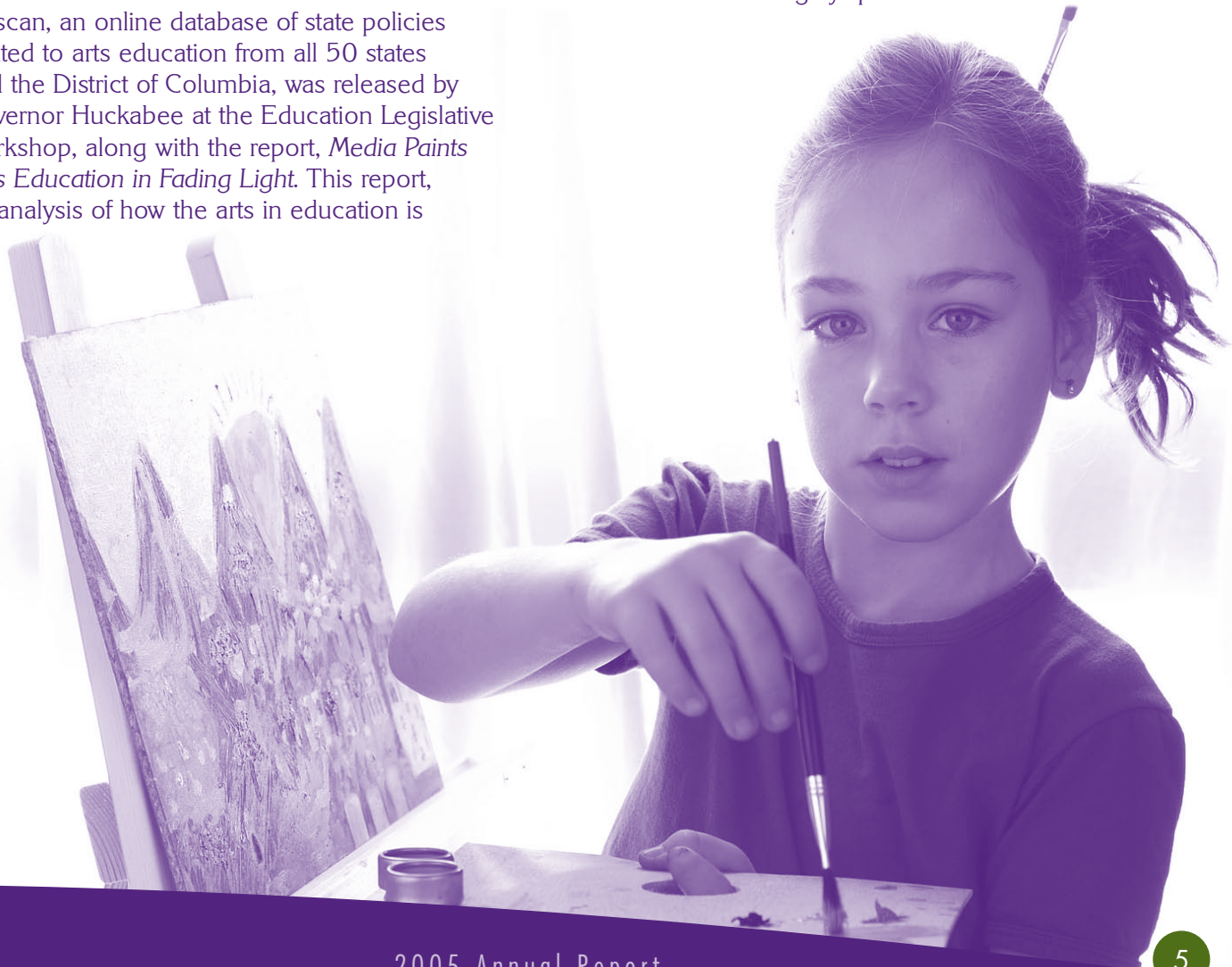
The ECS Chairman's Initiative – *The Arts – A Lifetime of Learning* – has presented information to ECS constituents, introduced research and analysis and was supported by the Governor's Commission on the Arts in Education. The following events and products illustrate the impact and development of new resources that have been accomplished over the past two years as part of the Chairman's Initiative:

- ✦ The 2005 ECS National Forum program featured a concurrent session on the arts in education, specifically on policies that support the arts in education at the state level.
- ✦ Arts in education was an area of focus at the 2005 ECS Education Legislative Workshop.
- ✦ Artscan, an online database of state policies related to arts education from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, was released by Governor Huckabee at the Education Legislative Workshop, along with the report, *Media Paints Arts Education in Fading Light*. This report, an analysis of how the arts in education is

covered and framed by the media, offers recommendations encouraging the media to showcase successful arts education programs and initiatives.

- ✦ The Governor's Commission on the Arts in Education developed a strategic workplan and will release its report, *Governors Commission on the Arts in Education: Findings and Recommendations*, at the 2006 ECS National Forum on Education Policy.

The Governor's Commission, in particular, affirms the importance of the arts in education and offers recommendations for future actions such as work with pilot states, more tools for state policymakers, and further analysis on arts assessment and policy options to address the need for highly qualified teachers in the arts.



Information Clearinghouse

2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT

"TOP 10" ISSUES IN 2005

Policymakers submitted the most information requests on (in rank order with 2004 rank in parentheses):

1. Finance (2)
2. No Child Left Behind (1)
3. Teaching Quality (3)
4. High School Reform (6)
5. Early Childhood Education (4)
6. Accountability (8)
7. School Calendar/Scheduling (9)
8. Assessment (5)
9. Attendance
10. Leadership (10)



MISSION & HISTORY

The ECS Information Clearinghouse makes available up-to-the-minute and historical information on more than 100 educational policy issues. A staff of policy analysts is available to respond to policymakers' information requests with a 24-hour initial response time.

Over its 40-year history, the Clearinghouse has evolved from relying primarily on printed materials to maintaining information databases accessed through the ECS Web site, www.ecs.org. The ECS digital library includes more than 13,000 documents related to education policy.

The Clearinghouse continues to publish hardcopy reports, including the highly popular StateNotes – 50-state comparisons and compilations of policies on current education issues. The ECS High School Policy Center was launched by the Clearinghouse in 2005 to address and examine issues on high school reform.



CLEARINGHOUSE LAUNCHES ECS HIGH SCHOOL POLICY CENTER

A three-year project to develop an information center on high school policy was launched in 2005. The centerpiece of the project is an extensive database of state policies on numerous areas of high school reform, including:

- ✦ Provision of opportunities for college-level curriculum and credit
- ✦ Alignment
- ✦ High school graduation requirements
- ✦ Curriculum and standards
- ✦ Assessment
- ✦ Student support and remediation
- ✦ Accountability.

ECS' unique data system makes it possible for the database to be updated as soon as state policies are enacted or amended – keeping our constituents up to date and in the know.

The High School Policy Center, over the three years of the project, will also release:

- ✦ Policy briefs and StateNotes on topics of interest in high school reform
- ✦ A research database, providing easy access to research findings and policy implications on issues related to high school reform
- ✦ A database on highlights of local initiatives, providing snapshots of innovative and promising policies and practices in states and districts nationwide.

Clearinghouse "Best Sellers" for 2005 – ECS StateNotes

- + *State Policies Related to Alternative Education*
- + *Charter Districts: The State of the Field*
- + *State Class-Size Reduction Measures*
- + *School Funding Adequacy Cases*
- + *What Governors Need to Know: Highlights of State Education Systems*
- + *State Policies Related to Student Health and Nutrition*
- + *Advanced Placement Exams with an International Focus, 2001 State-by-State Comparison*
- + *2005 State Policies Related to the No Child Left Behind Act*
- + *Student Promotion/Retention Policies*
- + *Policies Dealing With Evolution in Select States*
- + *Statewide Teacher Salary Schedules*



Teaching Quality & Leadership Institute

2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT

TQLI "BEST SELLERS" FOR 2005

Teaching Quality:

- ✦ *Qualified Teachers for At-Risk Schools: A National Imperative*
- ✦ *Recruiting Teachers of Color: A 50-State Survey of State Policies*
- ✦ *Paraprofessional Database Research Navigator*
- ✦ *Eight Questions on Teacher Recruitment and Retention: What Does the Research Say?*
- ✦ *Diversifying Teacher Compensation*

Leadership:

- ✦ *Leadership Standards*
- ✦ *What's Happening In School and District Leadership?*
- ✦ *Statewide Leadership Academies: 50-State Report*
- ✦ *Mentor Programs for Leaders*
- ✦ *The First Ring Leadership Academy: A Multidistrict Model for Developing, Sharing and Supporting Leadership Talent*

MISSION & HISTORY

The Teaching Quality and Leadership Institute was founded in June 2005 as part of a reorganization that gave ECS policy research greater focus and enhanced leadership. The Center was initially comprised of ongoing ECS projects in teaching quality and leadership.

New teaching quality projects added during 2005 included the award by the U.S. Department of Education of the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality (NCCTQ) to a consortium including ECS, Learning Point Associates, Educational Testing Service and Vanderbilt University, and funding of a project on performance-based teacher compensation by The Joyce Foundation.



THE 2005 TEACHING QUALITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AGENDA

After a national competition, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the operation of the National Comprehensive Center for Teaching Quality (NCCTQ) to a partnership of ECS, Learning Point Associates (LPA), Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Vanderbilt University. Funding is renewable through 2010.

Support for a project on redesigning teacher compensation was provided by The Joyce Foundation. A publication, *Diversifying Teacher Compensation*, was published in 2005. A national conference on this topic will be held in 2006.

With support from the National Center for Teacher Transformation, leadership teams from six states attended a September 2005 workshop on streamlining and expanding the role of community colleges in teacher education.

The MetLife Foundation funded development of a policy toolkit identifying and promoting successful approaches to school leadership. A national advisory board was formed to guide this project.

Wallace Foundation support enabled ECS, in partnership with CCSSO and NGA, to develop six “leadership issue groups” of state and district leaders to meet with experts to address critical education leadership issues. The project is funded through 2007.

Support from the Wallace Foundation also enabled the State Action for Education Leadership Project (SAELP) – which engages policymakers in 22 states – to improve professional practice and approaches to leadership development.



The image shows a man in a white shirt pointing at a chalkboard. The chalkboard contains two math problems, labeled 'a)' and 'b)'. Problem 'a)' shows a multiplication problem: $18.88 \times \square = \frac{1888}{8}$. Below this, it says $0.08 \times \square =$. Problem 'b)' shows a multiplication problem: $2.365 \times \square = 23.65$. Below this, it says $0.5 \times \square =$.

“That fateful Friday afternoon when we got our Supreme Court decision that we had to fund education differently...we called every organization we could think of that could give us information about how to address this issue...and on Monday, we had information from ECS about what was happening in states across this country and how they were addressing that issue. And I can tell you, two weeks later we were still waiting for information from [other organizations]. So I think one of the things that this organization has done so well, and I hope will continue to do in the future, is to provide information; to continue to be a clearinghouse for what’s happening in the field of education, what states are doing, and helping states as we think about how to address issues of education in our own local, parochial areas.”

—Jeanne Shaheen, former governor of New Hampshire,
at the “ECS at 40” session, 2005 National Forum

School Improvement Institute (SII) 2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT “BEST SELLERS” FOR 2005

- ✦ *State Strategies for Redesigning High Schools and Promoting High School to College Transitions*
- ✦ *Restructuring Schools in Chester Upland, Pennsylvania*
- ✦ *School Boards: A Neglected Component of School Reform*
- ✦ *Improving Academic Achievement in Urban Schools: What State Policymakers Can Do*
- ✦ *Full-Day Kindergarten: A Study of State Policies in the U.S.*
- ✦ *How States Fund Full-Day Kindergarten*
- ✦ *State Funding Issues for Small and Isolated Schools and Districts*
- ✦ *School Restructuring in Philadelphia: Management Lessons*



MISSION & HISTORY

The School Improvement Institute was founded in June 2005 as part of a reorganization that gave ECS policy research greater focus and enhanced leadership. The Center was initially comprised of ongoing ECS projects in accountability, charters and school choice, early childhood education, education finance and school reform.

A two-day workshop on lessons learned from math education in China was held in conjunction with the National Forum. A program director for early childhood learning was hired in October.

THE 2005 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AGENDA

Accountability: conducted case studies under contract to Just for the Kids and Standard & Poor's in Texas and Kansas. Published *Accountability Policy Inventory & Analysis Tool*.

Charters & School Choice: published *Charter Districts: The State of the Field, Vouchers, Tax Credits and Tax Deductions* and coordinated a session at ECS Education Legislative Workshop.

Early Childhood: published *Full-Day Kindergarten: A Study of State Policies in the US and How States Fund Full-Day Kindergarten*; coordinated a session at ECS Education Legislative Workshop.

Education Finance: published *The Federal Education Budget; Inflation Adjustments in State Education Funding Formulas; School Funding Adequacy Cases*; and provided policy analysis support to the states of Montana and Utah.

School Reform: published *State Strategies for Redesigning High Schools and Promoting High School to College Transitions; School Boards: A Neglected Component of School Reform; Keeping America Competitive: Five Strategies to Improve Math & Science Education*; and coordinated a session at ECS Education Legislative Workshop.



Postsecondary Education & Workforce Development Institute 2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT



MISSION & HISTORY

The Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development Institute was founded in October 2005 as part of a reorganization that gave ECS policy research greater focus and enhanced leadership. The Center was initially comprised of ongoing ECS projects in postsecondary education and workforce development.

A new focus on high school to community college transitions was initiated in 2005, working in close partnership with Educational Testing Service. Grant proposals were submitted to foundations and the federal government.

The National Collaborative on Postsecondary Education Policy, a partnership with the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, held a national summit on the public agenda for higher education in October.

THE 2005 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

A new focus on high school-to-community college transitions was initiated in 2005, with particular emphasis on the alignment of high school exit and postsecondary entrance standards. Grant proposals, in partnership with Educational Testing Service are under consideration by foundations and the federal government.

The National Collaborative on Postsecondary Education Policy, a partnership with the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education and the National Center for Higher Education

Management Systems, received an extension on the grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts. The final report, describing work on setting the public agenda for higher education in Missouri, Rhode Island, Washington, West Virginia and Virginia, will be released in spring of 2006.

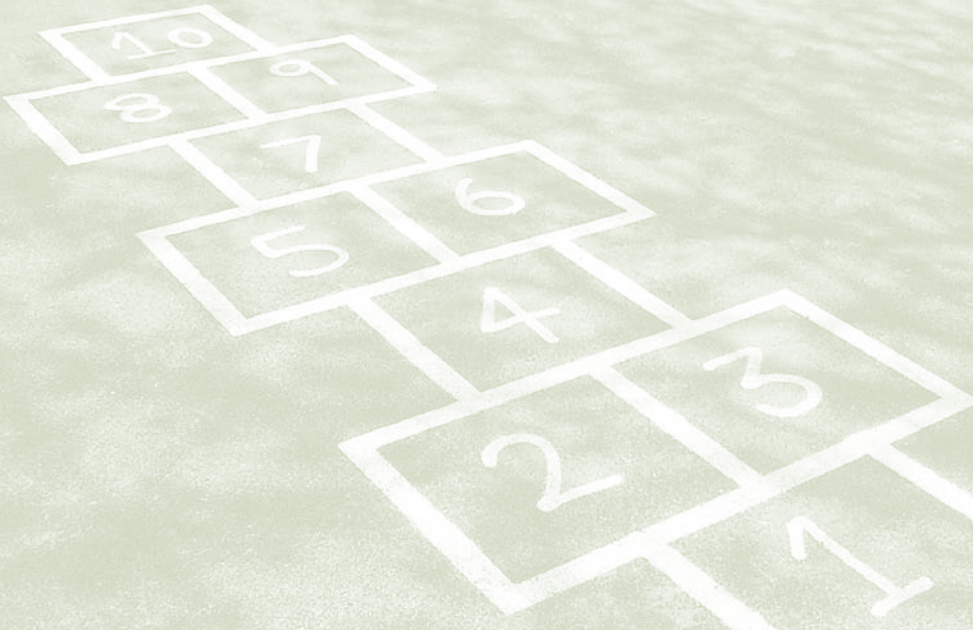
The Postsecondary Education Institute has agreed to collaborate with the Minority Outreach Subcommittee of the Colorado Commission to develop a statewide strategy for increasing enrollment of students of color in Colorado higher education institutions.

POSTSECONDARY "BEST SELLERS" FOR 2005

- ✦ *Issues in Community College Funding*
- ✦ *In-State Tuition for Undocumented Immigrants*
- ✦ *State Remediation Policies*
- ✦ *Merit Scholarships*
- ✦ *Working with States to Improve Educational Opportunity*



National Center For Learning & Citizenship 2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT



At the invitation of the Kellogg Foundation, NCLC responded to requests from Mississippi Secretary of Education Hank Bounds for assistance in transforming Mississippi public schools after the devastation of hurricanes Rita and Katrina. NCLC plays a role in informing policymakers on effective school and community disaster preparedness plans with an emphasis on promoting student engagement and development of student intellectual and social-emotional competencies required to respond to disasters of all types and origin.

MISSION & HISTORY

Initially focused on promoting service-learning in American education, NCLC has expanded its mission to include promotion of citizenship education, a global citizenship perspective in American education, the arts in education and disaster preparedness education. The expanded mission retains the primary mission of developing well-rounded citizens through public education.

NCLC Executive Committee:

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Wisconsin

William Cirone
County Superintendent of Schools,
Santa Barbara County, California

Randall Collins
Superintendent of Schools,
Waterford, Connecticut

NCLC "BEST SELLERS" FOR 2005

- ✦ *Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar E. Chavez: Legacies of Leadership and Inspiration for Today's Civic Education*
This issue paper from the ECS National Center for Learning and Citizenship examines how schools can use the legacies of Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King Jr. to promote effective civic education.
- ✦ *Civic Action: The Role of School Boards to Advance Youth Engagement and the Civic Mission of Schools*
Created a powerpoint that was shared at the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference in a session co-hosted by NSBA and NCLC.
- ✦ *The Learning That Lasts Field Guide*
A companion guide to *Learning That Lasts: How Service-Learning Can Become an Integral Part of Schools, States and Communities*. The field guide provides specific strategies to move service-learning from the margin to the mainstream in American schools.
- ✦ *Civics Assessment Database*
Provides assessment items for civic knowledge, skills and dispositions, and school climate; available at www.ecs.org/qna.

NCLC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Hurricanes Rita and Katrina grabbed the attention of policymakers and education leaders in 2005 and engendered disaster preparedness programs and policies. All citizens and communities should engage in the prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from situations and events that threaten or cause significant harm to people or property. Safe and healthy communities require the development and coordination of knowledgeable and skilled individuals who are able to assist in times of need. This is an activity that requires a blend of the intellect and social-emotional competencies. It is the hallmark of citizens in a democracy to not only feel compassion for others but to be able to mobilize and organize to act on that compassion. ECS, through NCLC, provides information to policymakers and education leaders that promote effective school and community disaster preparation plans with an emphasis on policies that encourage student engagement.

This year ECS has provided state policymakers and education leaders with quality, relevant and useful information through the examination, analysis and dissemination of research, policy options and quality practice; thereby enabling them to integrate disaster preparedness into school culture, curriculum, pedagogy and collaborations.

ECS has focused much of its work in collaboration with Mississippi Secretary of Education Hank Bounds and his leadership to transform Mississippi public schools in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This includes providing information, participating in meetings, responding to inquiries and sharing lessons learned with Mississippi policymakers and education leaders and other ECS constituents.

ECS also networks with national, state and local organizations to respond to emergency situations in states affected by these disasters by providing information on state policy, effective practice, youth leadership and community contributions to advance quality education for all students.

NCLC CITIZENSHIP WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

More and more, globalization challenges policymakers to ensure students understand their role as globally-conscious citizens in an increasingly interconnected world. Citizenship education should balance the democratic values of justice, equity and diversity while responding to the needs of cultural, ethnic, immigrant, language, and religious groups. ECS, through NCLC, responds to this challenge by providing information on policies, citizenship education programs, research, curriculum and pedagogy to guide action and school reform.

ECS provides state policymakers and education leaders with quality, relevant and useful information through the examination, analysis and dissemination of research, policy options and quality practice, thereby enabling them to integrate citizenship with a global perspective into the school culture, curriculum, pedagogy and collaborations.

ECS shared information and resources this year with constituents and participated in forums in Argentina, Costa Rica, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom to advance quality citizenship education with a global perspective. ECS reviewed existing state policies focused on global and international education, and encouraged constituents to analyze and respond to opportunities to create curriculum, pedagogies and collaborations engaging students in activities to acquire knowledge, skills and dispositions for their role as a global citizen.

Government Relations Department

2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT

MISSION & HISTORY

The Government Relations department was reorganized in December 2005 to centralize ECS government relations, meeting planning, governance and communication functions.

This reorganization promotes coordination of external relations functions and provides new leadership to focus these activities on achievement of the ECS mission.

Government Relations is working to better coordinate constituent services and outreach efforts in order to ensure that ECS continues to provide the high-quality education research and policy constituents need. In 2005, Government Relations worked closely with commissioner-appointing authorities in each member state and territory to secure the appointment of a complete and representative roster of commissioners. As a result, the Commission is filled to 87% capacity with 329 total members. Staff are also continuing efforts to make sure each member state and territory is represented on the Steering Committee.

Government Relations produces and disseminates a quarterly report to ECS Commissioners containing detailed information about upcoming meetings, commissioner and steering committee membership, and state fee collection. Staff continue to track political, legislative and budgetary developments to provide constituents with a comprehensive analysis of the political state of the union and individual states.

ECS works in partnership with organizations representing state and local constituencies on a variety of education initiatives. In addition, ECS supports and participates in various networks for legislators and legislative staff, governors and their aides, chief state school officers and their staffs, state higher education executive officers and their staffs, state and local superintendents and boards of education, and various key interest groups serving teachers, administrators and business leaders.

Communications Department

2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Communications Department provides support and guidance to all ECS divisions on the production of print and Web materials. The department oversaw development of all new products for 2005 as well as maintained daily oversight of the ECS Web site and databases. In addition, Communications staff wrote and produced three issues of *The Progress of Education Reform*, summary reports on research and practices of the hottest education issues:

- ✦ *Progress of Education Reform: After-School Programs*
- ✦ *Progress of Education Reform: Teacher Supply and Demand*
- ✦ *Progress of Education Reform: Dual Enrollment*

With the hiring of a new print and Web designer in 2005, the Communications Department is able to produce more high-quality and well-designed products in-house. The ECS Web site undergoes regular enhancements and improvements. In 2005 upgrades were implemented to make the site ADA compliant. The department also spearheaded marketing efforts for the ECS National Forum on Education Policy, including coordination of the commissioner telephone campaign.

Planning, Development & Information Technology 2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT

PRESIDENT ROBERTSON'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT "LISTENING AGENDA"

One of President Robertson's first priorities was to carry out a "listening" agenda, seeking feedback on education policy issues and on ECS' role in supporting policy analysis on critical issue areas. The "listening agenda" included two main audiences: ECS commissioners and major national philanthropic foundation leaders. In 2005, President Robertson placed personal telephone calls to more than 300 ECS commissioners to assess their policy interests and levels of satisfaction with ECS. And during the spring of 2005, President Robertson visited the offices of more than 25 major foundations, meeting with the executive officers and education program executives.

The ECS Corporate Alliance for Education Program (CAEP) underwent a reorganization in 2005. In addition to seeking direct support for the National Forum on Education Policy, the Corporate Alliance expanded its scope to seek partnerships and funding for the overall ECS mission. The levels of sponsorship were standardized and clarified, and three new levels were introduced. A new marketing brochure was designed and disseminated.



MISSION & HISTORY

The planning, development & information technology department was formed in September 2005 to design and implement a new development focus based on enhanced use of information technology to achieve ECS' mission.

A complete redesign of the ECS Web site and information databases is underway.

A professional grant writer was added to the staff in September 2005 to support grant activity by the policy institutes.

2005 marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of ECS and ECS was pleased to dedicate the conference to co-founder Terry Sanford. ECS continues to be the unique and vital partnership created by Sanford, John W. Gardner and James Bryant Conant. The 2005 program reflected the striking extent to which America's ability to maintain its place in the world now hinges on the quality and performance of its education system. Featured speakers included:

- ✦ Clayton M. Christensen, author, *The Innovator's Solution*
- ✦ Álvaro Domingo, representing father Plácido Domingo
- ✦ Jim Geringer, former governor, Wyoming
- ✦ John W. Hickenlooper, mayor, Denver
- ✦ James B. Hunt Jr., former governor, North Carolina
- ✦ Sharon Lynn Kagan, Columbia University
- ✦ Sir Ken Robinson, Getty Foundation
- ✦ Jeanne Shaheen, former governor, New Hampshire
- ✦ Raymond Simon, U.S. deputy secretary of education
- ✦ Margaret Spellings, U.S. secretary of education



Most Highly Rated Panels

- ✦ ECS at 40: Celebrating 40 Years of Education Advocacy
- ✦ Lessons from School Funding Court Cases
- ✦ Improving Mathematics and Science Education in the U.S.:
Actions for State Education Leaders
- ✦ Are We Preparing Teachers Better? How Do We Know?
- ✦ The Rhyme and Reasons for Keeping the Arts Strong in Schools
- ✦ Creating the Political Will to Staff Our Hardest-to-Staff Schools
- ✦ What Works in High School Reform? A Look at the Research



2005

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The ECS Spring Steering Committee meeting was held in April in Little Rock, Arkansas, home state of ECS Chairman Mike Huckabee. The governor provided a warm welcome to ECS commissioners and constituents. The program showcased the governor's initiative, *The Arts – A Lifetime of Learning*, with special focus groups and musical presentations. Attendees also were treated to a reception and dinner at the Clinton Presidential Library.



Fall Education Legislative Workshop

Commissioners traveled to Arlington, Virginia in October 2005 for the Fall Steering Committee meeting, which was held in conjunction with the first-ever Education Legislative Workshop.

In response to requests presented at legislator caucuses at the 2005 National Forum, ECS held its first workshop on education legislative initiatives.

Issues identified by legislators for the workshop included arts in education, early childhood education, charter schools, postsecondary finance, high school-to-postsecondary transitions and disaster preparedness.

Each workshop was moderated by a governor, legislator or practitioner and included a resource expert. ECS staff prepared briefing materials describing existing legislation in the states and policy research and initiatives under consideration.

Evaluations by attendees reported very favorable responses, especially regarding the sharing of information among legislators in a confidential environment.

FINANCIAL REPORT: 2005 SUMMARY

Education Commission of the States Statement of Financial Position Years Ended September 30, 2005 and 2004

ASSETS	2005	2004
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 856,639	\$ 111,204
Grants and contracts receivable	413,858	284,191
State fees and other accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$483,435 in 2005 and \$380,509 in 2004	791,830	689,909
Prepaid expenses	77,368	115,252
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,139,695	1,200,556
Investments	2,747,713	2,884,149
Property and equipment – at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$1,738,797 in 2005 and \$1,485,536 in 2004	966,617	1,262,633
Deferred compensation held in trust	4	263,347
TOTAL ASSETS	5,854,029	5,610,685
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 68,150	\$ 215,538
Accrued liabilities		
Vacation	122,195	175,081
Payroll and benefits	60,078	399,888
Other	287,323	226,430
Deferred revenue	3,282,390	2,451,296
Current portion of capital lease obligation	5,688	22,750
Current portion of long-term debt	73,680	69,709
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,899,504	3,560,692
Capital lease obligation, net of current portion	–	5,688
Long-term debt, net of current portion	188,723	262,380
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,088,227	3,828,760
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	698,526	902,106
Unrestricted	1,067,276	879,819
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 1,765,802	\$ 1,781,925

FINANCIAL REPORT: 2005 SUMMARY

Education Commission of the States Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets Years Ended September 30, 2005 and 2004

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Operating revenues:		
Grants and contracts		
Foundation funding	\$ 2,105,990	\$ 2,453,934
Federal funding	646,659	2,021,579
Contract funding	98,514	504,740
	<u>2,851,163</u>	<u>4,980,253</u>
State fees	3,804,777	3,755,800
Registration fees and corporate sponsorships	494,670	477,975
Web sponsorships	187,500	187,500
Publications and subscriptions	14,171	35,749
Other	22,352	17,693
	<u>7,374,633</u>	<u>9,454,970</u>
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES		
Operating expenses:		
Pre-K-16 Policy Studies	\$ 3,043,789	\$ 5,306,273
Information clearinghouse	766,106	711,438
State services	642,147	1,092,251
Communication services	434,161	505,768
Development services	254,481	281,489
Executive/administration	2,538,087	1,749,227
	<u>7,678,771</u>	<u>9,646,446</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		
OPERATING LOSS	(304,138)	(191,476)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Net realized/unrealized gain on investments	267,465	280,496
Interest and dividends	97,668	83,022
Interest expense	(52,913)	(41,636)
Investment expense	(24,205)	(24,000)
	<u>\$ 288,015</u>	<u>\$ 297,882</u>
TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUES		
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(16,123)	106,406
Net assets beginning of year	<u>1,781,925</u>	<u>1,675,519</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>1,765,802</u>	<u>1,781,925</u>

Foundation, Corporation and Government Agency SUPPORT OF ECS IN 2005

Education Commission of the States Foundations, Corporations and Government Agencies Supporting ECS Activities for the Year Ending December 31, 2005

New Grants FY 2005	Amount	Activity
Academy for Educational Development	\$ 44,000	Additional Funding for Service-Learning Activities
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	778,010	High School Policies Database
Carnegie Corporation of New York	400,000	Citizenship Policies and Practices
Center for Civic Education	20,000	NCLC Congressional Conference
Council of Chief State School Officers	255,000	Leadership Issue Groups
GE Fund	80,000	Progress of Education Reform Publication Support
National Conference of State Legislatures	9,300	Michigan Civics Replication Project
North Carolina Civic Education Consortuim	8,000	Civic Mission of Schools Campaign
St. Petersburg College	180,000	NCTT-Paraprofessional Initiative
State Farm Companies Foundation	300,000	NCLC/ECS Education Colloquia & Forums
The Whittier Trust	20,000	Support for the Education Legislative Workshops
The Bay & Paul Foundation	100,000	Civic Mission of Education
The Ford Foundation	100,000	Arts Education
The Joyce Foundation	15,000	National Partnership for Teaching in At-Risk Schools
The Joyce Foundation	167,239	Teacher Compensation
The Riordan Foundation	20,000	Support for the Education Legislative Workshops
The Wallace Foundation	170,000	State Action for Education Leadership Project
U.S. Department of Education-OESE	250,200	Chartering and NCLB
Washington Mutual	70,000	Teacher Education in At-Risk Schools
Windgate Charitable Foundation	175,000	Arts Education
TOTAL NEW GRANTS	\$ 3,161,749	
New Contracts FY 2005		
Hockaday-Hunter	\$ 7,500	Education Finance
The Teaching Commission	8,750	Teacher Education: Pay for Performance
The Teaching Commission	11,000	Teacher Education: NCLB Compliance
The Teaching Commission	6,000	Teacher Education: At-Risk Schools
University of Texas	25,000	Just for the Kids Data
TOTAL NEW CONTRACTS	\$ 58,250	
TOTAL NEW GRANTS & CONTRACTS	\$ 3,219,999	

Foundation, Corporation and Government Agency SUPPORT OF ECS IN 2005

Ongoing Support

- ✦ Academy for Educational Development
- ✦ ACT, Inc.
- ✦ Atlantic Philanthropies, Inc.
- ✦ Carnegie Corporation of New York
- ✦ Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- ✦ Council for Excellence in Government
- ✦ Council of Chief State School Officers
- ✦ Educational Testing Service
- ✦ Foundation for Child Development
- ✦ G E Fund
- ✦ Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- ✦ Institute for Educational Leadership
- ✦ Jaquelin Hume Foundation
- ✦ KnowledgeWorks Foundation
- ✦ Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- ✦ MetLife Foundation
- ✦ National Science Foundation
- ✦ Oregon Department of Education
- ✦ Pearson Education
- ✦ Pew Charitable Trusts
- ✦ Rhode Island Kid's Count
- ✦ Standard & Poor's/McGraw Hill
- ✦ State Higher Education Executive Officers
- ✦ Stevens Institute of Technology
- ✦ The Bay and Paul Foundation
- ✦ The Wallace Foundation
- ✦ U.S. Department of Education
- ✦ Washington Mutual

2005 National Forum Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors

ACT, Inc.
CELT Corporation
Educational Testing Service
I CAN Learn Education Systems
NAMM, the International Music
Products Association
National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
Pearson Education
TIAA-CREF

Gold Sponsors

The College Board
Harcourt Assessment
Kaplan K12 Learning Services
Measured Progress
PLATO Learning, Inc.
Texas Instruments

General Sponsors

Hewlett Packard
IBM
Lexile
MGT of America
National Education Association
Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services
State Farm Companies Foundation
The Wallace Foundation

Web Site Sponsors

ACT, Inc.
Pearson Education
Educational Testing Service

2005

ECS STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee

ECS Chairman, 2004-06



Mike Huckabee
Governor
Arkansas

ECS Chairman, 2003-04



Mark Warner
Former Governor
Virginia

ECS Chair-Elect, 2006-08



Kathleen Sebelius
Governor
Kansas

ECS Vice Chair, 2004-06



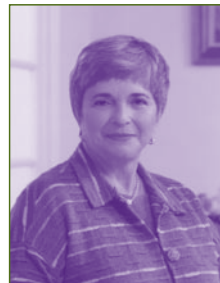
David Sokola
Chair
Senate Education Committee
Delaware

ECS Treasurer, 2004-06



Sandy Garrett
Superintendent of
Public Instruction
Oklahoma

ECS President



Piedad Robertson
President
ECS

ECS Commissioner



Roderick Chu
Chancellor
Board of Regents
Ohio

ECS Commissioner



RaeAnn Kelsch
Chairman
House Education Committee
North Dakota

ECS Commissioner



Howard Lee
Chairman
State Board of Education
North Carolina

ECS Commissioner



Jewel Scott
Executive Director
Civic Council of
Greater Kansas City
Missouri

ECS Commissioner



Jess Stairs
Chairman
House Education Committee
Pennsylvania

2005 ECS STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alaska: Con Bunde, Senator	Minnesota: Tim Pawlenty, Governor
Alabama: Caroline Novak, President, A+ Ed Foundation	Mississippi: Alice Harden, Senator
American Samoa: Evelyn Godinet, School Principal	Missouri: Jewel Scott, Exec. Director, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City
Arizona: Linda Gray, Senator	Nebraska: Doug Christensen, Commissioner of Education
Arkansas: Mike Huckabee, Governor	Nevada: Barbara Cegavske, Senator
California: Juanita Haugen, Member, Pleasanton School Board	New Hampshire: Thomas Horgan, President, College & Univ. Council
Colorado: Jane Norton, Lieutenant Governor	New Mexico: Bill Richardson, Governor
Connecticut: Judith Freeman, Senator	North Carolina: Howard Lee, Chairman, State Board of Education
Delaware: David Sokola, Senator	North Dakota: RaeAnn Kelsch, Representative
District of Columbia: Anthony Williams, Mayor	Ohio: Roderick Chu, Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents
Florida: Stephen Wise, Senator	Oklahoma: Sandy Garrett, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Georgia: Kathy Ashe, Representative	Oregon: Susan Castillo, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hawaii: Norman Sakamoto, Senator	Pennsylvania: Jess Stairs, Representative
Idaho: John Andreason, Senator	Rhode Island: Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Education
Illinois: Brenda Holmes, Member, State Board of Education	South Carolina: Mark Sanford, Governor
Indiana: Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction	South Dakota: Robert Perry, Executive Director, Board of Regents
Kansas: Bill Wagnon, Member, State Board of Education	Tennessee: Richard Rhoda, Executive Director, Higher Ed Commission
Kentucky: Virginia Fox, Secretary of Education	Texas: Shirley Neeley, Commissioner of Education
Louisiana: Sally Clausen, President, Univ. of Louisiana System	Virginia: Mark Warner, Governor
Maine: Sarah Redfield, Professor, Education Law Institute	Virgin Islands: Noreen Michael, Commissioner of Education
Maryland: Adrienne Jones, Speaker Pro Tempore	Wisconsin: Luther Olsen, Senator
Michigan: Irma Clark-Coleman, Senator	Wyoming: Patricia McClurg, Dean, College of Educ., Univ. of Wyoming

ECS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 11–13, 2006

Fall Steering Committee and Education Legislative Workshop
Denver, Colorado

July 10–13, 2007

2007 National Forum on Education Policy
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Wyndham Hotel

April 2007

Spring Steering Committee Meeting

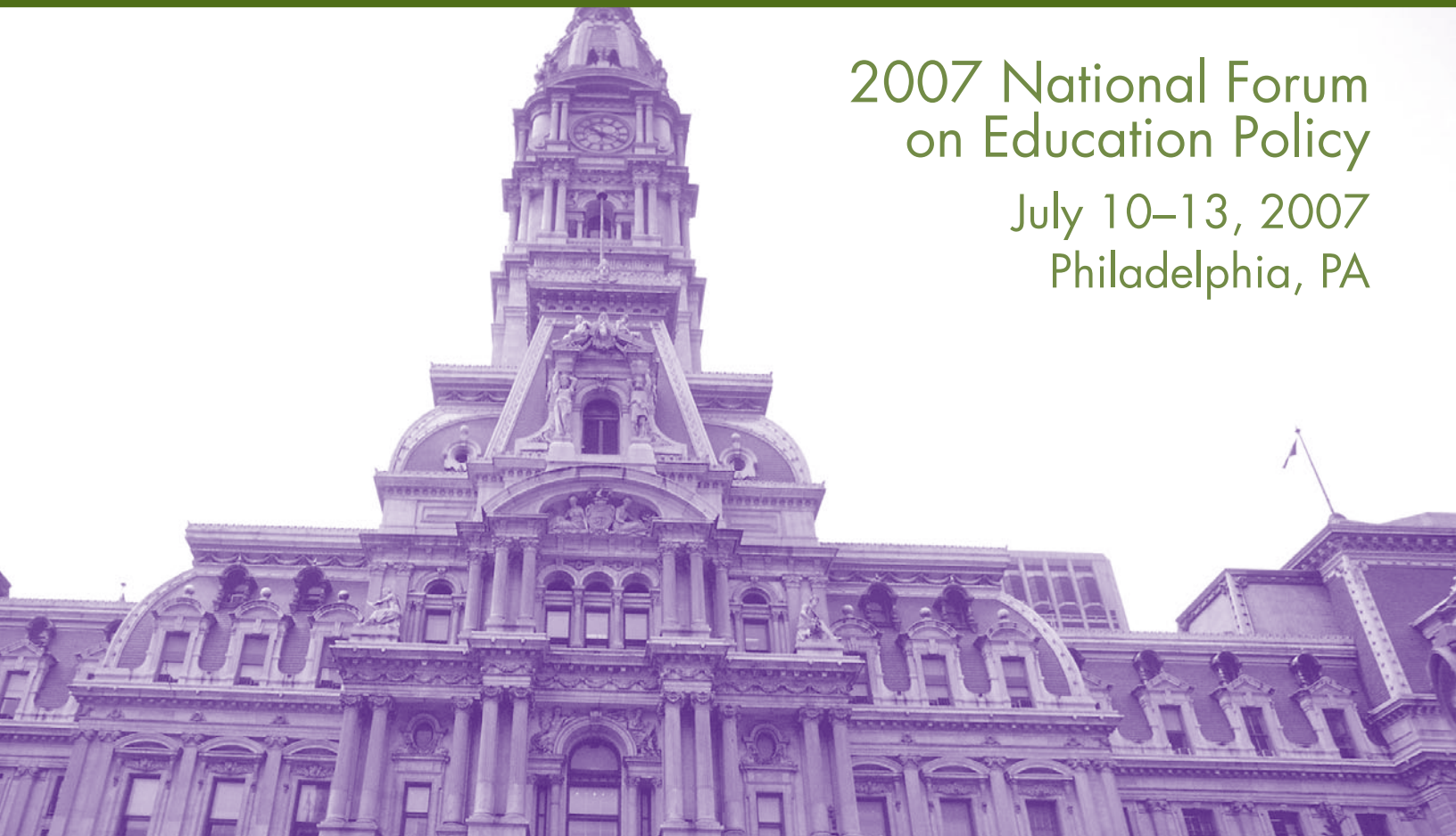
October 2007

Fall Steering Committee and Education Legislative Workshop



2006 National Forum on Education Policy
July 11–14, 2006
Minneapolis, MN

HELPING STATES SHAPE
EDUCATION POLICY



2007 National Forum
on Education Policy
July 10–13, 2007
Philadelphia, PA