2015 Education Summit
September 24-26, 2015
Presented by
The Aspen Institute Education & Society Program
and
The State Legislative Leaders Foundation
The Doerr-Hosier Center
Aspen Meadows Resort and Conference Center
845 Meadows Road
Aspen, CO 81611

AGENDA

Objectives:

- Engage with leading education experts in an introduction to K-12 education policy.
- Improve participants’ understanding of their state’s education policies and practices.
- Work with leading experts in the field and peer legislative leaders to develop a framework for thinking about education policy issues and decisions going forward.

Thursday, September 24, 2015

3:00pm  Check-in

State Legislative Leaders and Summit Faculty Members
Aspen Meadows Resort
845 Meadows Road
Aspen, CO 81611
(800) 452-4240

Corporate Sponsors
Limelight Hotel
355 S. Monarch Street
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3025

5:00pm  Registration  Paepcke Auditorium

5:30pm  Opening Session: What is the Purpose of Public Education?

Speaker: William Anderson, High School Teacher, Denver Public Schools
Speaker: Stefania Shaffer, Middle School Teacher, Burlingame School District
Moderator: Walter Isaacson, President and CEO of The Aspen Institute

To frame our time together in Aspen, these opening keynote addresses from two teacher leaders will delve into the question of the purpose of a public education in the United States and consider the many, sometimes-competing goals of public education.

6:15pm  Reception and Dinner  Barksdale Lobby, Doerr-Hosier Building
7:00am  Breakfast available

8:30am  Welcome

Stephen G. Lakis, President, The State Legislative Leaders Foundation
Ross Wiener, Vice President, The Aspen Institute and Executive Director,
Education & Society Program

9:00am  Session I: What Should Be the Purpose of Public Education?

In small groups, participants will discuss their takeaways from the opening session. What type of education system is necessary to reflect the different goals of public education? What does that mean for what schools should teach and who should be teaching? What does that mean for how we think about measuring success and holding schools and systems accountable?

9:30am  Session II: From Common School to Common Core: The History and Current State of Education Policy

Jeffrey Henig, Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Department of Education Policy and Social Analysis, Columbia University Teachers College

Over the last hundred years, and in the last several decades, the role and purview of federal, state, and local education policymaking has evolved. This session will provide an overview of the history of education in the United States, and current and former state legislators will reflect on this historical context, on recent developments, and consider the implications for policymaking in the coming years.

Discussants:
Peter Groff (D); Principal at MCG2 Consulting, LLC; former Colorado State Senate President
Senator Peggy Lehner (R-OH, District 6)
Maureen Stapleton (D), President, Community Enterprises; former Michigan State Representative

10:45am  Break

11:00am  Session III: Current State of Public Education in the United States

Kati Haycock, President, The Education Trust

Education has a significant impact on employment, income, and health. This session will consider trends in the academic achievement and post-secondary success for America’s schoolchildren. A panel of legislators will reflect on what this data means for state legislatures.

Discussants:
Kathy Cox (R); CEO of the Education Delivery Institute; former State Superintendent of Schools, Georgia Department of Education and former Georgia State Representative
Rich Crandall (R), former Arizona State Senator and State Representative
Senator M. Teresa Ruiz (D-NJ, District 29)

12:30pm  
**Lunch and Education Polling Discussion**
Education consistently ranks at the top of the list of voter priorities. But what education issues are most important to voters? Renowned national pollster and political strategist Kristen Soltis Anderson will offer a peek inside the mind of the voting public, combining results of multiple state and national polls, focus groups, and in-depth research during a lunchtime discussion.

1:45pm  
**Session IV: Education Finance for Policymakers**
*Marguerite Roza, Director of the Edunomics Lab, Georgetown University; Senior Research Affiliate, Center for Reinventing Public Education*

Education funding is the largest portion of a state’s overall budget. Determining what gets funded in education (and how) may be the most important decision state legislators make. But what does this appropriation cover? How are funding formulas determined? And how can state legislators provide oversight of public dollars while at the same time allowing sufficient flexibility and autonomy to support local decisions? We’ll explore these questions and more in an interactive and engaging session that incorporates small group work.

3:10pm  
Break

3:25pm  
**Session V: Knowledge and Skills for the 21st Century**
*Mike Cohen, President and CEO, Achieve, Inc.*

With the question of Common Core State Standards surfaceing in the news and on the campaign trail, this session will go beyond the headlines to explore states’ academic standards. What are they? Why are they needed? How do they differ from other types of standards? Who determines what they are? How do they relate to curriculum, textbook adoption, and graduation requirements? And most importantly, what is the role of state legislatures in the whole process?

*Small group break-out: Look at your own state’s standards, assessments, graduation requirements, and standards adoption and review process. What are the key differences across states? What questions do these materials raise?*

5:00pm  
Conclude day *(Shuttles available for participants staying at the Limelight Hotel)*

6:00pm  
Meadows guests meet at the Reception Center to take shuttles to dinner

6:15pm  
**Reception and Dinner**  
*Limelight Hotel, 355 S. Monarch St, Aspen, CO*
Saturday, September 26, 2015
All Meeting Sessions in the McNulty Room

7:00am  Breakfast available  Aspen Meadows Dining Room

8:30am  **Session VI: Measuring Student Learning – Assessment 101**
Derek Briggs, Professor and Program Chair, School of Education,  
University of Colorado Boulder

One of the fundamental roles of the state legislature is to ensure oversight of public systems. But how do we know the education system is working? What do we measure and how? Current statewide tests are used for a variety of purposes, from reporting to the federal government, to determining if students are ready to graduate high school, to measuring whether teachers are effective. In this session, we will seek to understand the different types of assessments administered in schools, how they are used, and what they can and cannot tell us about student learning.

*Interactive break-out:* Practice sample test questions from the Common Core-aligned assessments and other state tests. Compare these tests to previous state tests, followed by discussion in small groups.

10:00am  Break

10:15am  **Session VII: Understanding Education Data**
Aimee Guidera, Executive Director, Data Quality Campaign

State and local assessments generate rich sources of data, but how can policymakers make sense of all of the information? Cut through the jargon to understand different types of education data and how they can be used to increase transparency, provide helpful information, and improve opportunities for students.

*Small group break-out:* Examine your state’s data report card.

12:00pm  **Concluding Session – What’s Next?**

*Small groups:* Report-out on big takeaways.

12:15pm  Adjourn