ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

Recent Publications

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THE DROPOUT CRISIS

The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools: This brief demonstrates that if the Class of 2009 students who dropped out had graduated, the nation's economy would have benefited from nearly $335 billion in additional income over the course of their lifetimes. State-by-state information is also included.

Understanding High School Graduation Rates: These national and state fact sheets provide the latest graduation rate statistics, including graduation gaps between demographic groups, discrepancies in graduation rates reported by government and independent sources, and the economic costs of dropouts to individuals and society.

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION

Reinventing the Federal Role in Education: Supporting the Goal of College and Career Readiness for All Students: This brief provides recommendations for an ESEA reauthorization that would help ensure that federal policy serves as a leader and partner in bringing the potential of the common core initiative and other similar efforts to fruition.

Key Pieces of Secondary School Legislation Pending Before Congress: This document summarizes the pieces of secondary school legislation pending before Congress supported by the Alliance for Excellent Education, with sponsor and cosponsor information included.

TEACHERS AND LEADERS

Achieving a Wealth of Riches: Delivering on the Promise of Data to Transform Teaching and Learning: This brief addresses why using data represents a significant shift for most teachers in how they perform their jobs, explains the importance of using multiple types of data to affect learning, details the infrastructure necessary to encourage teachers' use of data, and provides federal policy recommendations.

ADOLESCENT LITERACY

Seize the Moment: The Need for a Comprehensive Federal Investment in Adolescent Literacy: This brief examines the adolescent literacy crisis and why literacy really does matter, especially at the secondary level.

Informing Adolescent Literacy Policy and Practice: Lessons Learned from the Striving Readers Program: This brief explores Striving Readers grantees' experiences, examines other research and best practices, and provides recommendations to help shape the next phase of the federal effort in adolescent literacy.

INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Short Sighted: How America's Lack of Attention to International Education Studies Impedes Improvement: This brief illustrates the need for U.S. education system to develop a more global outlook and to participate in international benchmarking opportunities.

SECONDARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Whole-School Reform: Transforming the Nation's Low-Performing High Schools: This brief describes whole-school reform, how it has been supported by federal policy in the past, what lessons have been learned from those policies, and recommendations for how federal policy can encourage and support whole-school reform in schools facing significant challenges.

Action Required: Addressing the Nation's Lowest-Performing High Schools: This brief examines the current federal approach to addressing the lowest-performing high schools, explores lessons learned from emerging strategies at the state and local levels, and provides related recommendations for federal policy.

Preparing Students for College and Career: California Multiple Pathways: This brief details the multiple pathways movement in California, developed in response to poor and inequitable student outcomes, as it continues to garner interest and to develop a growing base of evidence.

DATA, ASSESSMENTS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Moving Beyond AYP: High School Performance Indicators: This brief describes the research behind these indicators, measurement options and challenges, and current use across the nation. It also offers recommendations to federal policymakers for supporting the use of multiple, actionable, high school performance indicators.

Using Early-Warning Data to Improve Graduation Rates: Closing Cracks in the Education System: This brief explores the power of early-warning data in predicting whether a student will drop out, offers examples of current efforts to use such data to guide secondary school interventions across the country, and offers policy recommendations.

Meaningful Measurement: The Role of Assessments in Improving High School Education in the Twenty-First Century: This collection of essays by leading experts discusses important assessment issues, examines promising assessment practices from across the globe, and offers recommendations on how the federal government can support an assessment agenda for the twenty-first century.

Every Student Counts: The Role of Federal Policy in Improving Graduation Rate Accountability: This brief describes the movement toward better data collection, common graduation rate calculations, and meaningful accountability for raising graduation rates, and describes in detail the culminating federal policy changes made by the regulations, which reflect both the significant progress that has been made and the hurdles that remain.

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