



Collaborating to improve ECE Funding Systems

Lessons learned from K12

What can we learn from K12 Finance about:

- Coalescing on funding philosophies and strategies
- Engaging organizations at all levels needed for change
- Approaches that can be applied to ECE



K12 Finance is *forming* a coherent system of funding adequacy and equity

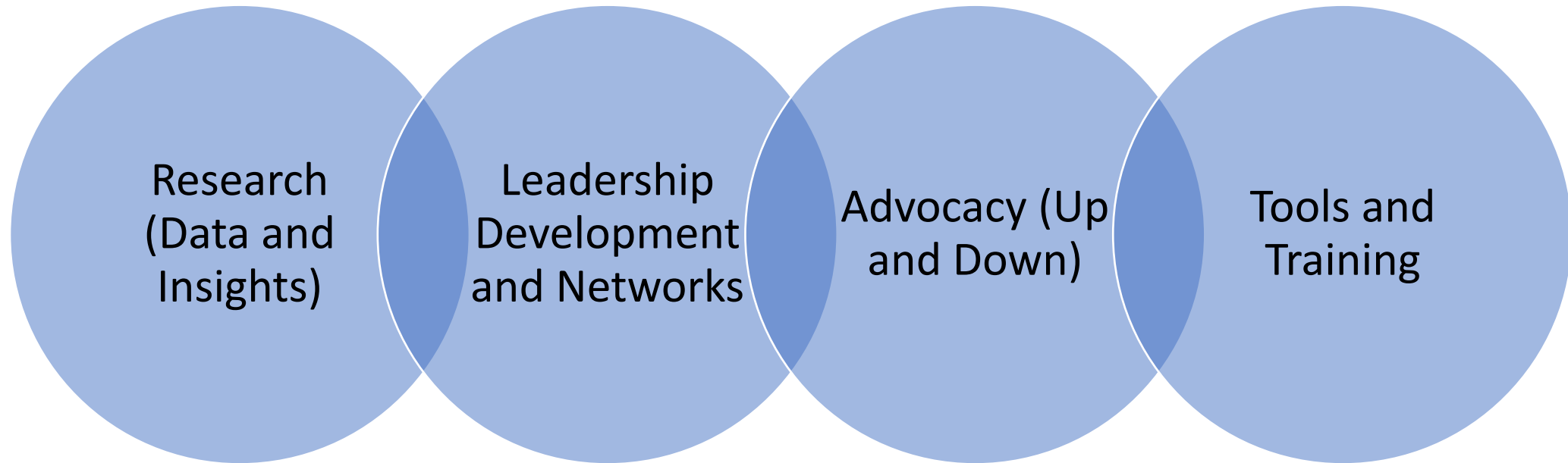
- Increasingly based on the true cost of serving students
- Adequacy- and equity-informed state funding formulas which fund local education agencies (i.e. districts)
- Continued traction of Weighted Student Funding (WSF) in local funding formulas (i.e. from districts to schools)
- Funding for the “mixed delivery system” in K12 (charters) varies by state



How has this philosophy spread broadly to allow for relatively swift funding policy and systems change?

Acknowledging ECE has unique complexities, what can we learn and apply?

There is growing alignment across *levers* for this philosophical funding system change



Leading to aligned understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and path forward

K12 organizations work together to create an environment conducive for funding system change



University/Institutes

- Center for Reinventing Public Education (Arizona State; University of Washington)
- Edunomics (Georgetown)



Philanthropic Investment

- Dell
- Gates
- Walton



Advocacy Voices

- National (Ex: The Education Trust)
- State/Local (Ex: Advance Illinois)
- Legal cases for equitable funding



Public Sector Leadership

- Federal - ESSA fiscal transparency, and WSF Pilots
- State-specific initiatives (ex: Texas System of Great Schools)



Specialized Consulting Groups

- ERS
- Afton



Early Adopters

- City / region-specific harbormasters (Schoolsmart KC)
- New York City
- Boston
- Chicago

Funding and spending data allows for comparison of state funding policy, practice, and effectiveness

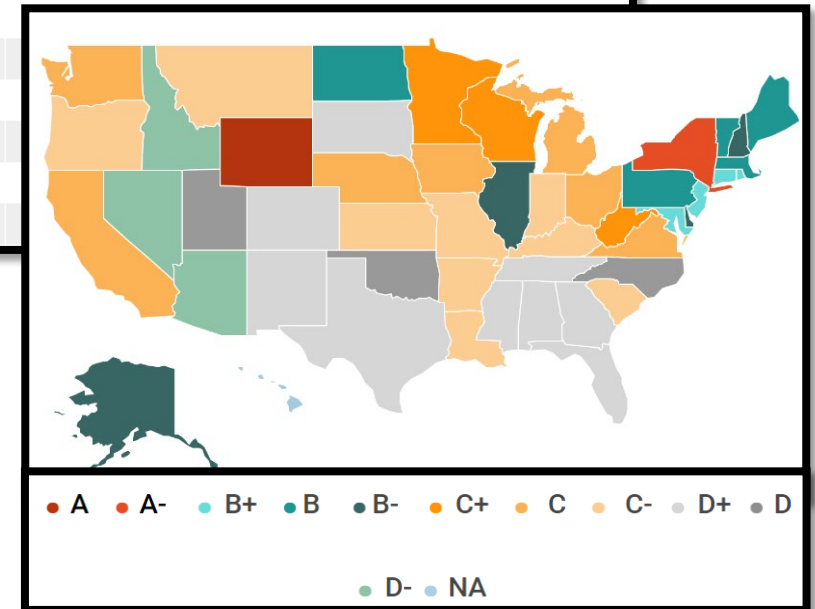
Federal and state policies mandate financial transparency, including at the district and school-level. Orgs like Education Commission of the States, Education Trust, EducationWeek, Edunomics, and CRPE use grading and ranking frameworks that:

- Allow for unified philosophical approach to guide best practice
- Influence state and federal policy
- Nudge states to learn from other states and take action
- Allow for a comprehensive view across funding sources, and for tracking progress over time



EQUITY					SPENDING			
🔍 Search								
	School Finance Grade	School Finance Score	Equity Grade	Equity Score	Wealth-Neutrality Score (2016)	McLoone Index (2016)	Coefficient of Variation (2016)	Restricted Range (2016)
Alabama	D+	69.1	B+	89.0	0.209	93.1	0.096	2,566
Alaska	B-	82.1	C	73.3	-0.272	83.3	0.466	20,429
Arizona	D-	62.4	B+					
Arkansas	C-	71.9	B+					
California	C	73.9	B+					
Colorado	D+	67.3	B+					
Connecticut	B+	88.3	B					
Delaware	B-	80.5	B					

[Example: How Each State Performed on School Spending and Equity \(Map and Rankings\) - EducationWeek](#)



Recommendations



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES

Collaboration

- Convenings like this!
- Communities of practice
- Interstate working groups with state practitioners



Financial **D**ecision-making **W**orking **G**roup

Coherency

- Whole system financial landscape analysis and evaluation
- Philosophical alignment on paths forward
- Federal and state policy advocacy

Communication

- Put learnings and thinking out there, readily accessible
- Early proof points and lessons learned
- Tools & resources to make system redesign approachable

