

No Time to Lose



How to Build a
World-Class
Education System
State by State



**MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

Julie Davis Bell
December 8, 2016



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

About NCSL

- Instrumentality of all 50 state and territorial legislatures
- Bipartisan
- Provides research, technical assistance and opportunities to exchange ideas
- Advocates on behalf of legislatures before the federal government

NCSL is committed to the success of state legislators and staff. Founded in 1975, we are a respected bipartisan organization providing states support, ideas, connections and a strong voice on Capitol Hill.



NCSL International Education Study Group -- 28 legislators and staff

- 22 legislators and 6 legislative staff
- Bipartisan, experienced state education leaders
- Eighteen months of work
 - Consulted experts
 - Studied 10 top performing countries/provinces (Alberta, Ontario, Estonia, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, Poland, Shanghai, Singapore, Taiwan)
- Preparing for Phase II



Why Study Other Countries?

- Other countries are moving all students upward – US student achievement is stagnant.
- Top performing countries have strategically linked education reform to economic development and global competitiveness.
- Comparing other countries to the United States is imperfect but shouldn't be a reason to dismiss the PISA results or the relevance of lessons from other countries.
- States are responsible for ensuring high quality education and this is a state (not national or federal) problem.
- States compare relatively favorably with other countries than does the United States as a whole.
- There are lessons from other countries that are reasonable for states to consider.



Elements of High-Performing Systems:

Common Element #1

Children come to school ready to learn, and extra support is given to struggling students so that all have the opportunity to achieve high standards.



Elements of High-Performing Systems:

Common Element #2

A world-class teaching profession supports a world-class instructional system, where every student has access to highly-effective teachers and is expected to succeed.



Elements of High-Performing Systems:

Common Element #3

A highly-effective, intellectually rigorous system of career and technical education is available to those preferring an applied education.



Elements of High-Performing Systems:

Common Element #4

Individual reforms are connected and aligned as parts of a clearly planned and carefully designed comprehensive system.



Action Steps for States

- ✓ Build an Inclusive Team and Set Priorities.
- ✓ Study and Learn from Top Performers.
- ✓ Create a Shared Statewide Vision.
- ✓ Benchmark Policies.
- ✓ Get Started on One Piece.
- ✓ Work Through “Messiness.”
- ✓ Invest the Time.



How States are Moving the Conversation

- Bringing conversation about top performing countries to a broad group of citizens
- Bringing policymakers, educators and citizens together to identify a vision, priorities and opportunities for action
- Linking these conversations to major reform occurring in the state (ESSA, school finance reform)
- Conducting gap analyses
- Considering benchmarking
- Finding an entity for hosting/sponsoring this ongoing work



Study Group Phase 2

- Learn more about specific implementation strategies in the top performing countries (both technical policy approaches and navigating major policy change)
- Support state-based activity and study and learn about what works



Julie Davis Bell
Education Group Director
Julie.Bell@ncsl.org
(303) 856-1351



www.ncsl.org



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES