

# Center for Policy Advocacy

The Aurora Institute advances enabling policies by providing technical assistance, expertise, briefings and support to partner organizations and policymakers at the federal, state and local level. Our advocacy and thought leadership not only support the field's movement toward new learning strategies but also shape and guide the direction the field takes.

## State Policy Priorities



### Transform U.S. Education Systems

**Redefine student success** to ensure students are prepared for college, career, and civic life with the knowledge, skills, and mindsets for healthy and prosperous futures.

**Create innovation zones** to support districts and schools designing new learning models and to help remove barriers for modernizing education delivery.



### Rethink Accountability & Assessment

**Build balanced systems of assessments** to certify student mastery of knowledge and skills and provide timely feedback on where students are in their learning.

**Redesign accountability systems for continuous improvement** to achieve equity and excellence, empowering stakeholders with multiple, balanced measures and reciprocity processes.



### Build Capacity by Investing in People

**Modernize the educator workforce.** Create professional learning communities and incentivize competency-based teacher and leader preparation models to support building educator capacity for personalized, competency-based education systems. Build knowledge and skills through micro-credentialing.

**Increase educator workforce diversity** to better reflect student populations.



### Create System Coherence & Innovate

**Launch competency-based education pilots.**

**Offer seat time waivers and credit flexibility** to open space for multiple pathways for learning anytime, everywhere. Redefine credits based on competencies rather than seat time.

**Create meaningful credentials** by earning credits based on mastery of knowledge and skills. Offer mastery-based diplomas and transcripts.

**Align systems from pre-K, K-12 education, higher education, career/technical education into employment** for coherent, competency-based pathways for learning and earning degrees and credentials. Create a future-focused task force to plan a statewide vision for a lifelong, continuous system of learning to ensure all youth have pathways to prosperity.

## Federal Policy Priorities



### Prepare Educator Leaders for the Future

Launch a pilot program in the reauthorization of the **Higher Education Act** to encourage the development of innovative, fully competency-based and personalized teacher and leader preparation programs.



### Expand the Innovative Assessment Pilot

Remove barriers for states in **ESSA Section 1204 (Innovative Assessment Pilot)** by lifting the seven-state cap, allowing time for planning, and making funding available for states to develop and stage implementation of high-quality, innovative systems of assessments that include performance assessments to support competency-based pathways.



### Increase Access to Broadband Connectivity

Support continued **expansion of broadband infrastructure** and increased access to Wi-Fi in schools and homes by fully funding the E-Rate and Lifeline programs.



### Leverage Resources and Align for Postsecondary Transitions

Target funding within the reauthorized **Perkins Career and Technical Education Act** to encourage alignment of programs with personalized pathways and competency-based approaches across K-12, higher education and the workforce.

## For Policymakers

The Aurora Institute provides lawmaker education and technical assistance. For more information, get in touch with the policy team by emailing [policy@aurora-institute.org](mailto:policy@aurora-institute.org).

## Policy Team

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The mission of AURORA INSTITUTE is to drive the transformation of education systems and accelerate the advancement of breakthrough policies and practices to ensure high-quality learning for all.

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