



## CLOSING

Susan Patrick, Aurora Institute





A New Dawn for  
Every Learner

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# AURORA INSTITUTE RESOURCES

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REPORT

Written by  
**SUSAN PATRICK**  
**ALEXIS CHAMBERS**

**Education Policy Issues for the COVID-19 Era: Policy Actions and Responses to Leverage the Moment for Future Readiness**

August 2020

## EDUCATION POLICY ISSUES FOR THE COVID-19 ERA: POLICY ACTIONS AND RESPONSES TO LEVERAGE THE MOMENT FOR FUTURE READINESS

**AURORA INSTITUTE**

Written by  
**KATHERINE CASEY**  
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**A Promise for Equitable Futures: Enabling Systems Change to Scale Educational and Economic Mobility Pathways**

October 2020

## A PROMISE FOR EQUITABLE FUTURES: ENABLING SYSTEMS CHANGE TO SCALE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY PATHWAYS

**AURORA INSTITUTE**

**FUTURE-FOCUSED STATE POLICY ACTIONS TO TRANSFORM K-12 EDUCATION**

APRIL 2020

State policymakers are in a unique position to enable the innovations in education necessary to prepare students for a rapidly changing world. Working with 8,000 educators nationwide, the Aurora Institute identified the top 10 issues to address in state policy for transforming our K-12 education system.

Education leaders recognize the need to transform the education system to disrupt inequitable, centuries-old practices that no longer fit the world in which we live. Modernizing our education system means moving away from an industrial age "one-size-fits-all" model in which teachers stand and deliver and learners sit and get. Today, we know more than ever about how students learn best, and bold policy actions can align current educational practice with this knowledge. This challenges traditional thinking around how to deploy resources for learning more flexibly to meet learners' needs. Namely, these resources include teachers, time, spaces, funding, technology, as well as opportunities for community-based and place-based learning. It also requires increasing access and opening pathways toward future-focused learning experiences that will result in building knowledge and skills for lifelong learning and success.

The traditional model of K-12 education system is a veritable monolith in which each student's learning journey follows a single path at a single pace. The dominant approach to K-12 learning notably lacks needed differentiation and expects students to progress at the same time through the same content, regardless of their starting points or individual needs. Despite this outdated model, how educators teach and how students learn are rapidly evolving with the use of more personalized approaches. Policymakers can create enabling conditions and remove barriers that may inhibit these powerful innovations from taking hold at scale.

Change will happen through a concerted effort to organize a movement toward learner-centered enabling policies to increase flexibility and expand pathways for students, based on mastery of knowledge and skills. This publication sets a policy agenda to effect change through to priorities (see below). The following sections describe each of these priorities, provides examples of states with leading initiatives, and offers a set of bold policy actions to activate and scale change.

- PROFILE OF A GRADUATE
- MEANINGFUL CREDENTIALS
- EDUCATOR WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION
- EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DIVERSITY
- INNOVATION ZONES
- COMPETENCY-BASED PATHWAYS ALIGNMENT ACROSS K-12, HIGHER EDUCATION, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, AND WORKFORCE/EMPLOYMENT
- EDUCATION TASK FORCES & PILOTS
- CREDIT FLEXIBILITY
- BALANCED SYSTEMS OF ASSESSMENTS
- NEXT-GENERATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS
- SPECIAL ISSUE - CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

A new model for every learner

## FUTURE-FOCUSED STATE POLICY ACTIONS TO TRANSFORM K-12 EDUCATION