

Top 10 Policy Barriers and Opportunities for Expanding Options & Alternatives for High School

State Education Agency (SEA) Policies

SEA policies might include state education funding; Average Daily Attendance; high school credentialing; dual enrollment, definition of alternative education, postsecondary tuition waivers, dropout re-enrollment, certification of teachers and administrators, etc.

Governor's or State Legislature's Initiatives

Example: VA Governor Warner instituted a *Path to Industry Certification*.

Charter School Legislation/Chartering Authority

Chartering authority may reside with the SEA, local education agency (LEA), or other entity. In Indianapolis, IN, the Mayor has chartering authority.

Postsecondary Education Legislation/Initiatives

Are scholarships, financial aid, or other incentives available that might encourage all students to pursue higher education, and is support available once students matriculate?

Statewide or Citywide High School Reform and/or Alternative Education Legislation/Initiatives

Example: In Oregon, the Certificate of Initial Mastery/CIM and Certificate of Advanced Mastery/CAM, create a context for newer reforms.

Teachers' Union Policies

How does the teachers' union influence education policy and politics?

Municipal (City or County) Policies & Legislative Initiatives

Examples: Sacramento, CA city ordinance allows flexible school hours to accommodate students in overcrowded schools. Seattle, WA has a Families and Education Levy. How flexible are facility, land use, and building code requirements?

Municipal (City or County) Agency Relationships

What relationships exist among municipal agencies, such as health and human services, juvenile justice, housing, transportation, recreation and parks, etc.?

Local Education Agency (LEA)/School District Policies

What school district laws, policies, and regulations are relevant for expanding options and alternatives for high school?

Mayor/Superintendent/School Board(Committee) Roles and Relationships – Official and Personal

What roles does the Mayor exercise in influencing education? What is the relationship between the Mayor and School Superintendent? Who appoints or elects School Superintendent and/or School Board members?