



**BUILDING
BRIDGES**
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

PIEnetwork
Policy Innovators
in Education

For more than a decade, advocates working together through the PIE Network have proven they can build the political will that's needed to improve educational opportunities for students across the country.

A founding belief of the Network is that the work of improving schools is too important to be compromised by political gamesmanship: finding solutions to improve schools requires leaders to reach across ideology and partisan divides. Every year, at every Network opportunity, we prove that spirit of cross-partisan problem solving is still alive in this country, even in what is the perhaps the most polarized political landscape in recent memory.

FOCUS

2017

Through the Network, leading policy thinkers from across the ideological spectrum work regularly with advocacy leaders from the reddest to the bluest states—and everything in between—all striving to find the right solutions for their states. Network leaders stay connected through regular working meetings like the annual Summit and Executives' Meeting, and in between these and other Network events, advocates stay “in the know” through a steady flow of resources.

In 2017, advocacy leaders—working in partnerships with policymakers, educators, and communities—made historic strides. Your partnership and support make that work possible. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to connecting and strengthening the work of over 70 advocacy organizations working in 33 states to improve outcomes for millions of students.



Tim Taylor
PIE Network Board Chair



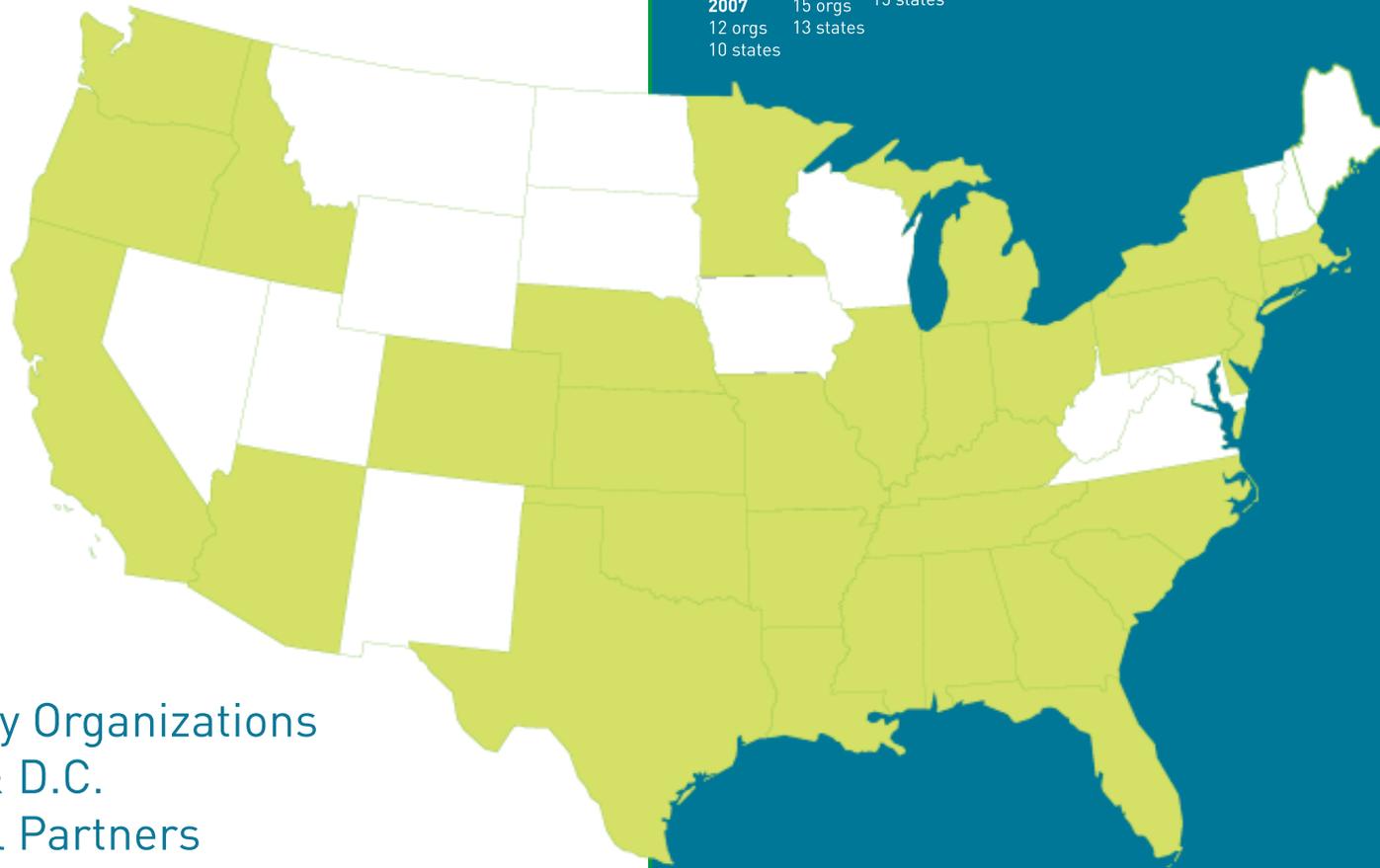
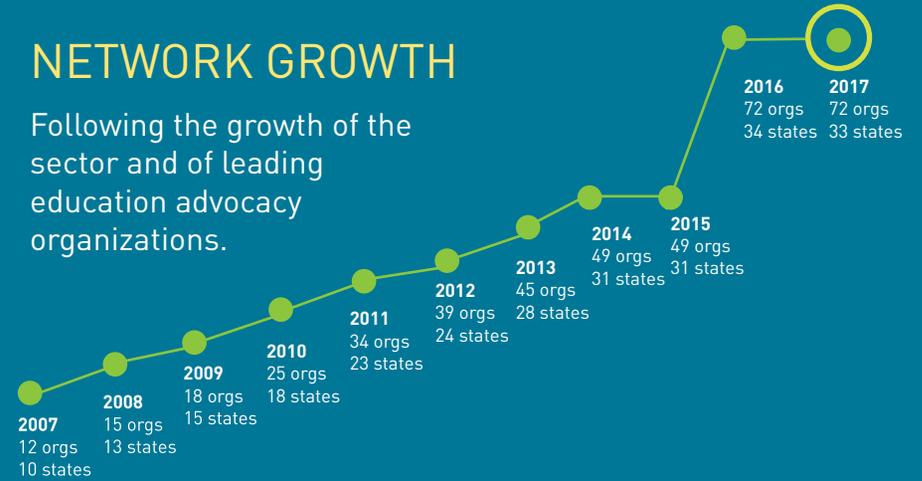
Suzanne Kubach
PIE Network Executive Director

A NETWORK OF CHANGE-MAKERS

Bringing an urgent voice to the political process so that state policy supports great schools and reinforces excellence in the classroom. A network makes impact exponential.

NETWORK GROWTH

Following the growth of the sector and of leading education advocacy organizations.



72 Advocacy Organizations
33 States & D.C.
15 National Partners

2017 NETWORK MEMBERS

72 advocacy organizations
33 states and D.C.
15 national partner organizations

STATE ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

A for Arizona
A+ Colorado
A+ Education Partnership
Advance Illinois
AlignED
Arkansas Learns
BEST-NC
Campaign for School Equity
Chalkboard Project
Children's Education Alliance of Missouri
Colorado Succeeds
ConnCAN
Connecticut Council for Education Reform
DC School Reform Now
DelawareCAN
Democrats for Education Reform Colorado
Democrats for Education Reform District of Columbia
Democrats for Education Reform Louisiana
Democrats for Education Reform Washington
EdAllies
Educate Nebraska
Educate Texas
Educators for Excellence-Chicago
Educators for Excellence-Connecticut
Educators for Excellence-Los Angeles
Educators for Excellence-Minnesota
Educators for Excellence-New York
EdVoice
Expect More Arizona
Foundation for Florida's Future
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
GeorgiaCAN
GO Public Schools
Idaho Business for Education
Innovate Public Schools
Institute for Quality Education
JerseyCAN

League of Education Voters
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
Mississippi First
NorthCarolinaCAN
NYCAN
Oklahoma Achieves
One Chance Illinois
Parent Revolution
Parents Amplifying Voices in Education
Partnership for Learning
PennCAN
Prichard Committee
Ready Colorado
RI-CAN
Rodel Foundation of Delaware
SouthCarolinaCAN
Stand for Children Arizona
Stand for Children Colorado
Stand for Children Illinois
Stand for Children Indiana
Stand for Children Louisiana
Stand for Children Massachusetts
Stand for Children Oklahoma
Stand for Children Oregon
Stand for Children Tennessee
Stand for Children Texas
Stand for Children Washington
StudentsFirstNY
Teach Plus - Massachusetts
Tennessee SCORE
TennesseeCAN
Texas Aspires
The Education Trust-Midwest
The Education Trust-New York
The Education Trust-West
Thomas B. Fordham Institute - Ohio

PERSPECTIVES & RESOURCES FROM NATIONAL PARTNERS

Center for American Progress
Center on Reinventing Public Education
Data Quality Campaign
Education Resource Strategies
Foundation for Excellence in Education
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Council on Teacher Quality
The Education Trust
Thomas B. Fordham Institute

NATIONAL OFFICES SUPPORTING STATE-BASED MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

50CAN
America Succeeds
Democrats for Education Reform
Educators for Excellence
Students for Education Reform
Stand for Children

ADVOCACY ADVANCES POLICY

State policy (and politics) is the primary driver of education in this country. Advocacy organizations led by credible local leaders are the best influencers of state lawmakers.

NETWORKS FUEL POLICY INNOVATION

Networks accelerate the movement for school improvement and create efficiencies that make other investments in education reform more effective.

CHAMPIONS NEED A NETWORK

The PIE Network super-charges the education reform sector to maximize impact. Throughout the Network, champions find connections, tools, and resources to work better, stronger, faster.

THEORY OF ACTION

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2017 NETWORK PROGRAM ACTION AND IMPACT



STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY & POLICY STRATEGY

CONNECTING CHAMPIONS ON POLICY PRIORITIES

Summit
294 leaders
137 orgs.

Executives
43 leaders
42 orgs.

Webinars
239 leaders
80 orgs.

**Member
Advocacy &
Policy Survey**
250+ campaign
details

**Comms
Bootcamp**
29 leaders
21 orgs.

**Educator
Voice**
33 leaders
27 orgs.

**Leadership
Institute**
23 leaders
23 orgs.

BUILDING CAPACITY & STRATEGY FOR ADVOCACY

Website
90,000+
page views

AMPLIFYING ADVOCACY & POLICY APPROACHES

**Coalitions
Playbook**
650+
page views

**Game Changers
Blog**
45 issues
32.3% open rate
*17.3% above
industry average*

“Such a terrific gathering of folks. Excellent dialogue with actionable opportunities. Perhaps the most beneficial opportunity was to meet folks in key places. Can’t say enough positive things about it.”

-M. Karega Rausch
VP of Research &
Evaluation at NACSA

“I found early on the Leadership Institute gave me better tools to engage my staff and better prepare myself to lead. The value of every word is emphasized across many of the lessons, and those lessons paid immediate dividends by improving my ability to negotiate with people and conflicts.”

- Alex Kelly, Vice President of Advocacy,
Foundation for Excellence in Education

"I have a stack of ESSA reports on my desk that's 18 inches high. I don't need another report. What PIE Network does is tell me which three reports are actually worth reading for my context."

- Linda Noonan, Executive Director, MBAE

"At the Educator Voice convening, I had the opportunity to learn about the similarities and differences among the educator voice organizations, and I was able to then make new relationships in order to better understand the landscape, make connections, and amplify all our efforts."

-Survey response

49 orgs.
28 states
worked on
this issue

**PROTECTING
STANDARDS &
ACCOUNTABILITY**
Maximized
opportunities
and averted crisis
around ESSA

**EXPANDING
CHARTERS & CHOICE**
Bolstered efforts
to advance and
defend charters
and choice

27 orgs.
19 states
worked on
this issue

**INCREASING
EDUCATOR VOICE**
Furthered
effectiveness of
educator-focused
strategies

36 orgs.
23 states
worked on
this issue

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**ADVANCING
ADVOCACY &
POLICY
PRIORITIES**

**RESPONDING
TO EMERGING
ISSUES**
Helped advocates
make their
case

47 orgs.
27 states
worked on
these issues

SUPPORTING STATE-LEVEL POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES IN 2017

GAME-CHANGING NETWORK RESULTS

AS EXPLAINED BY NETWORK LEADERS



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE TO ENSURE RIGOROUS ACCOUNTABILITY

When Congress, in an unprecedented move, rescinded ESSA regulations, advocates rose to the challenge of ensuring states designed rigorous accountability systems. More than 75 percent of PIE Network organizations engaged on accountability in 2018, making it the Network's top policy issue.

Consulting with Network Executive Directors on coalition plans

"Ultimately, our diverse coalition was able to move the state away from a school grading system that operated on a 'curve' so we can begin to provide parents with honest and transparent information about their child's school for the purpose of improving equity and informing quality school choice."

- Carrie Griffin Monica, Executive Director,
Stand for Children Louisiana

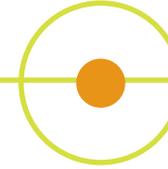
WINNING MAJOR BATTLES FOR EQUITABLE CHARTER FUNDING

Colorado advocates won a major battle for equitable funding, making theirs the first state to provide charter schools access to locally-raised tax revenue. Advocates credit a diverse, cross-ideological coalition for the success. Colorado Succeeds, Democrats for Education Reform-COLORADO, and READY Colorado led the fight, bringing a bipartisan approach to the issue.

Reinforcing trust among local advocacy organizations

"There is a really solid amount of trust that we've been building over a decade. We can get mad at each other, disagree on policy, but at the end of day we get it done for kids. It could have fallen apart a thousand times, but trust is one of the big reasons it didn't. Being PIE Network members helps reinforce that trust."

- Scott Laband, President, Colorado Succeeds



OVERHAULING A BROKEN TEACHER LICENSURE SYSTEM

Advocates at EdAllies and Educators for Excellence-Minnesota partnered to overhaul the state's broken teacher licensure system. The changes they put in place will drive additional funds to expand alternative licensure options, increase the pool of diverse teacher candidates, and simplify the process for out-of-state teachers.

Strategizing, re-grouping, and maintaining focus

“Educators from a variety of backgrounds will finally have clear, reasonable pathways to the licenses they need and the classrooms that need them. Though we partnered with local partners and educators to craft the details of our state’s new licensure system, advocates from across the PIE Network helped us strategize and maintain focus over the many years this overhaul required.”

- Daniel Sellers, Executive Director, EdAllies

CHANGING “THE MOST REGRESSIVE FUNDING FORMULA” IN THE COUNTRY

After working on the issue for more than five years, multiple PIE Network members in conjunction with additional Illinois advocates finally changed what was widely known as the most regressive funding formula in the country.

Partnering and aligning efforts to make change possible

“Rather than being a story of inside politics or a small group of power brokers, the story of school funding reform in Illinois is one that is truly focused on the story of organized people.”

- Acasia Wilson Feinberg, Executive Director, Educators for Excellence-Chicago

PIE NETWORK CORE BELIEFS

The Network is made up of diverse views and experiences from across ideological, ethnic, and socio-economic spectrums. A set of beliefs and a spirit of engagement bring us together and keep us together.

We agree with many people about the power of public education

Education is transformative

We believe in the power of public education. We know it's transformative and affects the trajectory of every child's life.

Schools are the bedrock of communities

We believe strong public schools matter. They are the bedrock of vibrant communities. They are essential to a prosperous economy. They attract business.

Education is the key to a prosperous economy

We believe in equitable taxpayer support for public education that provides additional investments for students with unique needs.

What sets us apart are the ways we believe schools can and must improve

Kids need champions

All kids need champions who work to ensure they get the education they deserve, especially the most underserved students.

Kids rise to the expectations we hold for them

Kids rise to the level of expectations adults hold for them, so we set high standards for all kids.

Effective educators make a difference

Educators have incredible impact and we won't rest until all kids have high quality teachers in their classrooms and leaders for their schools.

Evidence is necessary for improvement

It's reasonable to expect continuous improvement in education and it's responsible to ask for measurable evidence of performance and for swift action when it's not delivered.

Families need options

Families need options so they can find schools that work best for the unique needs of their kids.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

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50CAN



Aimee Guidera
CEO
Data Quality Campaign



Mike Petrilli
President
Fordham Institute



Jonah Edelman
Co-Founder & CEO
Stand for Children



David Pickens
Executive Director
DC School Reform Now



Suzanne Kubach
Executive Director
PIE Network



Lillian Lowery
Vice President
The Education Trust



Patricia Levesque
CEO
ExcelinEd



Rachel Canter
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Mississippi First



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CEO
League of Education Voters



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CEO & Co-Founder
America Succeeds



Cynthia Brown
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CAP

SERVING ADVOCATES

2017 NETWORK FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Policy Innovators in Education Network, LLC has received clean audit results each year of operation, including 2017. In supplement PIE Network, Inc. also participates in a performance review comparing the organization's financial records across more than 120 other alliance and advocacy organizations with revenue ranging between \$1M-\$10M and received healthy scores across all categories. In 2017, the Network employed 11 full time employees. Fully audited documents along with a copy of the performance review are available on request.

2017 Expenses:	\$1,935,102	
2017 Budget %:	Program:	84%
	Management:	9%
	Fundraising:	7%

THANK YOU 2017 FUNDING PARTNERS!

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Walton Family Foundation
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* Titles are based on positions held during 2017



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