

# Consideration of School Finance in Other States

April 13, 2016

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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.*

# Toward a System That Can Link Resources and Results

- ❑ Previous efforts at reform mixed
- ❑ Focused on inputs
- ❑ Spending increases went toward:
  - ▣ Teacher salaries
  - ▣ Smaller class sizes
  - ▣ Support spending

TABLE 2. ELEMENTS OF A NEW APPROACH TO SCHOOL FINANCE

Priorities and Needs	Existing System	New Approach
Funding for what works	Funding for fixed institutions and staffing arrangements	Provide funding that can move freely from less effective to more effective uses
A focus on core needs	Higher spending on electives	Focus spending on core subjects, gatekeeper skills
No achievement gap	Inexperienced and less expensive teachers in most challenged schools	Provide experienced teachers in challenged schools, or provide principals with equivalent in discretionary resources
Help for low-income students	Disproportionate spending on affluent students	Support disproportionate spending on low-income students
Strong school leaders and entrepreneurs	Self-selected managers	Identify and groom problem solvers and instructional leaders
Capable teaching force	Rewards based on seniority; professional development expenditures compensate for low standards on hiring and tenure	Provide rewards based on results
School environments conducive to learning	Unstable schools for the most disadvantaged, due to teacher turnover	Support stable and studious schools through teacher stability

# Vision Coalition of Delaware (visioncoalitionde.org)



HELP BRING THE VISION TO LIFE. FOLLOW UP ON YOUR CONFERENCE ACTION GROUP.

[READ MORE](#)

## SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Receive updates on Student Success 2025 and other news about Delaware public education.



# Vision 2015 (created in 2006)

That means **setting our sights high**, with challenging expectations for every child, coupled with high-quality curriculum and additional instructional time to give students a good shot at meeting the higher standards.

It means **investing in early childhood education**, targeting more resources to high-need children. We know that such experiences translate directly into long-term success.

It means **developing and supporting great teachers** in every classroom who are able to customize instruction to each and every child. We know that great teachers are the most important influence in producing high-achieving students.

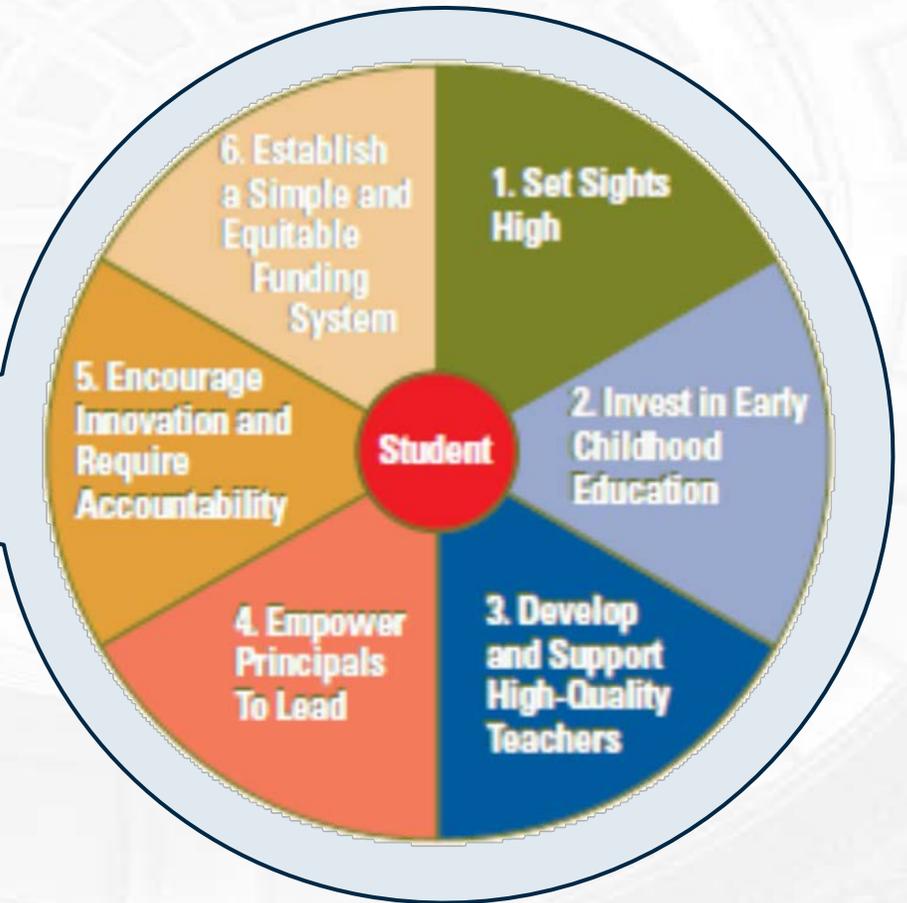
It means **empowering principals to be great school leaders** with enough knowledge, authority and flexibility to get results. We know that exceptional principals are needed to support effective teaching in every classroom.

It means **encouraging instructional innovation** because we know that one size does not fit all. It means **involving families** to support their children's learning. And it means **requiring accountability**, so that all involved — teachers, principals, parents, administrators, business and community leaders, legislators, and students themselves — are clear about their own responsibility for improving achievement and are rewarded for doing so.

Finally, our student-centered approach means **establishing a simple and fair funding** system in which resources follow individual students and are allocated based on their needs. We know some students, whether struggling or accelerating, will need more resources than others.

These are the six building blocks on which our vision is based. Other systems have adopted one or more of these elements, but Delaware will be the first to address them in such a systemic and holistic way.

The Six Building Blocks on Which Vision 2015 Is Based



# Student Success 2025

## □ PUBLIC COLLABORATION

- The Vision Coalition of Delaware collaborated with 4,000 Delawareans, including 1,300 students and recent graduates, to create the Student Success 2025 plan.

## □ NORTH STAR

- The North Star guides our journey on the path to excellence. It shows what students need to know, be, and do to live a lifetime of success. It serves as the beacon for our vision to improve public schools for every Delaware student.

## □ MEASURING SUCCESS

- Looking at where we are today, the coalition set goals to measure success leading up to 2025.

What skills and attributes does an **educated Delawarean** need to have in 2025?



Core Areas to Achieve  
**Student Success 2025**



# VCofDe's Recommendations for Fair and Efficient Funding:

- **Ensure Funding Responds to Individual Student Needs**
  - **1. Increase funding system equity by factoring student needs into funding allocations**, and update the system so that funding follows each student, enabling them to take courses from a variety of approved providers (e.g., other district and charter schools, distance learning, higher education organizations).
- **Increase Equity and Flexibility**
  - **2. Conduct property reassessments on a consistent, rolling basis** to enable a more sustainable, sufficient revenue and accurate equalization process.
  - **3. Allocate a larger portion of district/school funding in flexible funds** so that district and school leaders can expand the ways they educate children to meet specific student needs, rather than in one-size-fits-all categories.
- **Build More Transparent Systems**
  - **4. Create incentives at the local and state levels to increase efficiency**, particularly for sharing of services such as technology or professional development across districts and public charter schools. Publicly share district and school budgets as well as key district/school financial performance metrics in formats that are accessible to the public.

# Kentucky Rising

## □ What is Kentucky Rising?

- ▣ KY Rising is a statewide strategic plan focused on a “cradle” to “career” model to improve the economy of the Commonwealth and the prosperity of citizens of the Commonwealth.

## □ What is the goal?

- ▣ Kentucky will have a workforce that is among the world’s most highly skilled, globally aware, and globally competent.

# Kentucky Rising

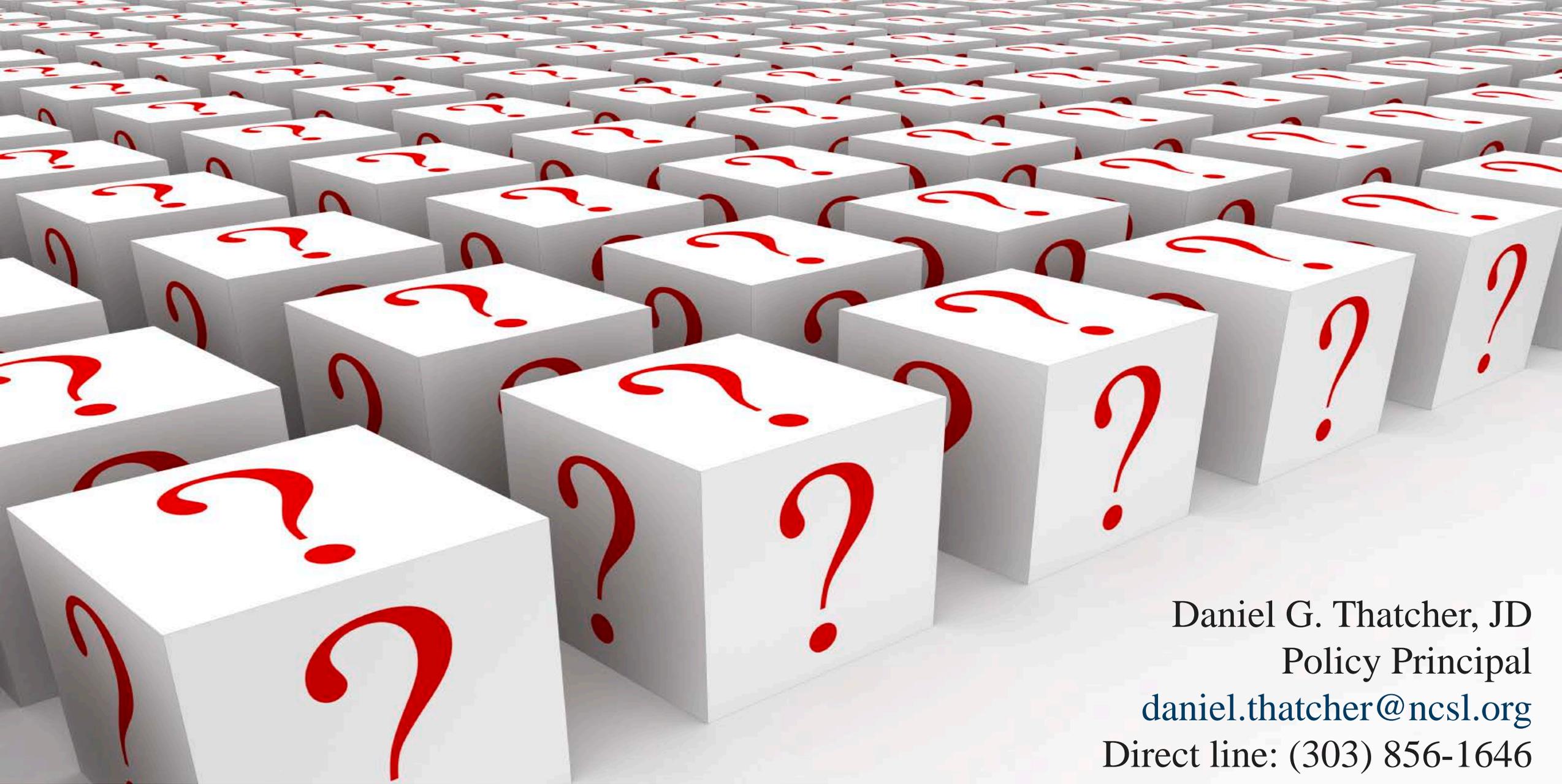
- **Nine Building Blocks** that describe the strategies that top-performing systems use:
  - Provide strong supports for children and their families before students arrive at school;
  - Provide more resources for at-risk students than for others;
  - Develop world-class, highly coherent instructional systems;
  - Create clear gateways for students through the system, set to global standards, with no dead ends;
  - Assure an abundant supply of highly competent teachers with the necessary dispositions, knowledge and skills;
  - Redesign schools to be places in which teachers, as professionals, work collaboratively with incentives and support to continuously improve their professional practice and the performance of their students;
  - Create an effective system of career and technical education and training;
  - Create a leadership development system that develops leaders at all levels to manage such systems effectively; and
  - Institute a governance system that has the authority and legitimacy to develop coherent, powerful policies and is capable of implementing them at scale

# Kentucky Rising

- **Which groups will be involved in the development of the KY Rising strategic plan?**
  - ▣ Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council
  - ▣ K-12
  - ▣ Higher Ed
  - ▣ Education Professional Standards Board
  - ▣ KY Chamber of Commerce
  - ▣ Economic Development
  - ▣ Labor Cabinet
  - ▣ Workforce Cabinet
  - ▣ Unbridled Learning Guiding Coalition
  - ▣ National Governors Association Career Pathways planning team
  - ▣ Other stakeholder groups (state, national, and international) based on involvement and leadership with the 9 components.

# Kentucky Rising

- **The Fund for Transforming Education ([www.thefundky.org](http://www.thefundky.org))**
  - ▣ **Established in April 2013** to provide encouragement and support for teachers, school leaders and others as they work toward adopting a culture of continual improvement and innovation.
  - ▣ **Works closely with a variety of partners** to serve as an outside agent of change to recruit resources and expertise to support teachers, schools and districts committed to this necessary transformation.
  - ▣ **Partners include** the Kentucky Education Association, Hope Street Group, the Center for Teaching Quality, Bluegrass Center for Teacher Quality, the Kentucky Network to Transform Teaching, the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the ***Prichard Committee for Academic***



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