



The American Education Policy Landscape

By Jennifer A. Rippner

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In today's complex educational environment, it's critical for educators to understand the policy landscape. Research-based and grounded in a non-ideological perspective, *The American Education Policy Landscape* is an essential guide for educators, graduate students, and policymakers alike. This accessible resource unpacks complex concepts and provides a comprehensive overview of early childhood, K-12, and higher education policy issues, including governance structures at the local, state, and national levels; the process of policymaking; issues of educational finance; and the impact of stakeholders. *The American Education Policy Landscape* provides aspiring and practicing educators, analysts, researchers, and policymakers with the foundational knowledge and context for understanding education policy, enabling them to make effective decisions, provide informed advice, and craft critical research questions on education.

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Editorial Review

Review

"An outstanding work that I wish had been available at the start of my career in public service! Decades of rich experience as an administrator, policy-maker, and academic culminate in this insightful and cogent primer. Rippner's work will leave you with a greater understanding of the full breadth and complexity of the education system, at the same time arming us all with our next steps for meaningful progress."

--Trey Childress, Deputy Governor, State of Illinois

"Rippner has succeeded in filling a stubborn gap in education reporting. Much more than an overview, she has created an eminently useful foundational resource?an invaluable context-creating statement of where we've been, where we are, and where we need to go. A comprehensive and compelling contribution, and a true pleasure to read."

--Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor, The State University of New York

"Rippner has taken on the daunting task of writing a book for a broad audience to aid our understanding of the complex U.S. education policymaking process. Rippner's formal education and professional experiences in education policy have prepared her for this challenge and she has ably delivered a worthy final product."

--W. Kyle Ingle, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Organizational Development, University of Louisville

About the Author

Jennifer A. Rippner, Ph.D., J.D., is currently the Executive Director for Policy and Partnerships at the University System of Georgia and the Coordinator of the Georgia Alliance of Education Agency Heads, the state's P-20 council. She most recently served as a postdoctoral research and teaching associate at the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia after completing her doctorate there in 2013.

She was a charter school director in Florida and later became director of the Florida Charter School Accountability Center, a statewide resource center housed at Florida State University. Jennifer then managed the state's charter school and alternative education programs at the Georgia Department of Education. She then served as education policy advisor to former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue as well as executive director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, a statewide P-20 accountability agency where she oversaw the establishment of several education research projects. She also served as a senior policy and legal advisor at EducationCounsel, LLC, a national education law and policy firm, where she authored several policy briefs regarding access and diversity issues in higher education.

Jennifer is a past member of the Southern Regional Education Board and is currently the chairman of Georgia's State Charter Schools Commission. She was one of three Americans chosen for a Global Policy Fellowship with the national Institute of Higher Education Policy in 2008.

Jennifer's academic research focuses on the role of state education policy and P-20 councils in helping states meet their educational attainment goals. She has presented multiple papers at academic conferences and has had her research on P-20 councils accepted for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals.

Rippner earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Georgia.

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