

Exploring Policy Levels

In order to achieve Systems Change, partnerships should consider work to impact institutional, local, or state policy to improve community-level outcomes. To accomplish this, partnerships should understand the different levels of policy in order to work toward impacting the right policy to support every child from cradle to career.

Use the explanations below to help think through the different policies that impact students in your community.



Institutional Policy: A policy with the scope to impact an individual institution or organization. Can be implemented by leadership (executive board, etc.).

Example: A community foundation chooses to change their grant making process to align with partnership outcomes.



Local Policy: A policy with the scope to impact a city or county. Can be implemented by a law, local agencies (county department of economic planning, etc.) or through an election.

Example: A city adopts a measure to support universal pre-K for all children who reside within the city limits.



State Policy: A policy with the scope to impact an entire state. Can be implemented by a law, state-wide agencies (state department of education, etc.) or through an election.

Example: A state board of education chooses to implement a standardized career readiness assessment for all public high school seniors.