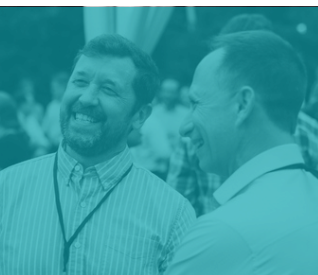




# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## MEETING THE MOMENT



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*PIE Network continues to be the go-to organization for deep engagement on the most important education issues of the day. Our work is hard, but it would be even harder without PIE Network and all that it does.*

Chad Aldis  
Thomas B. Fordham Institute-Ohio

*These are incredibly challenging and uncertain times for education advocacy, which makes being part of a national network of peers—who can serve as partners, sounding boards, and thought partners—especially valuable.*

Crystal McQueen-Taylor  
StudentsFirstNY





## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Network Members and Friends,

2025 was a historic year for PIE Network and our country.

At the national level, polarized politics snarled policymaking, and we experienced the longest federal government shutdown in our nation's history. Ongoing federal shifts mean that states, which control most education policy, are likely to get even more authority. At the state and local level, declining student enrollment, largely flat revenues, and fiscal policy changes are creating financial pressures on states and districts. And, at every level, AI is quickly shifting the needs and demands of our workforce, civic, and daily lives.

Meanwhile, data released this year from [the National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#), often cited as the Nation's Report Card, confirmed that too many students are not prepared for what's next. Only 31% of US fourth graders and 30% of eighth graders are reading at or above proficiency on NAEP. 12th grade math and reading scores have hit a 20-year low, with 45% of students unable to do basic math.

In the face of these challenges, Network leaders remained focused on students and our shared mission. We saw progress, reasons for hope, and deeper engagement from and between PIE Network members than any year prior.

Despite the overall grim national achievement data, states and cities like [Mississippi](#), [Louisiana](#), [Alabama](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Washington, DC](#) are proving that strong leadership, sound policies, sustained implementation, and strategic advocacy can improve students' reading and math outcomes. And not just in a handful of schools—but on a systemwide scale.

*There's more work to do, but these bright spots help keep us charging forward. PIE Network does too.*

The Network has grown by nearly 50% in five years. In 2025, we saw the power of PIE Network to connect, support, and catalyze leaders and ideas to expand outcomes and opportunities for all students. More leaders than ever before convened at the annual Executive Director's Meeting and the annual Summit—541 advocates across both experiences. This year, PIE Network members across the US drove progress on policies and practices to improve opportunities and outcomes for students.

For example, the annual Eddies Awards help highlight members' wins, with 60 policy and advocacy campaigns nominated in 2025. **Combined, these campaigns have the potential to impact more than 12 million students—nearly a third of all public school students in the country.** Network members consistently cite PIE Network as being instrumental to achieving these policy and advocacy wins.

Bound together by a shared mission and policy pillars, Network members transcend party lines and come together across differences in perspectives, backgrounds, strategic approaches, and geographies to help each other drive student-centered improvements. In times of turmoil and division, it would be easy to fray the fabric that weaves this Network together, to weaken our connections, to drown out the work toward our shared mission. But that mission, and the hard work to fulfill it, is why we're here.

**PIE Network is a rare and important thing—a cross-partisan community of leaders united not by party, but by purpose and pragmatism.** This work is not easy—it never has been. We don't agree on everything. We don't pretend to. What we share is deeper than that. We share a belief that students and families deserve better. We share a commitment to principled leadership to achieve that mission, and we prioritize a responsibility to face problems head-on and solve them—not just debate them. We share a mission to ensure that every child, in every community, gets the education they need to achieve a future without limits.

We are here to make progress. We know that is what families, students, and voters want. And we know that real progress is often not linear. It can be messy and it requires building power that we can't build alone. Pragmatic, principled progress in the real world requires clarity about our shared values and flexibility in how we pursue them.

*It requires courage, humility, and, whenever possible, collaboration and coalition. It requires listening as much as talking.*

**To our funders**, we are so grateful for your support and partnership that make this hard work possible. By supporting PIE Network, you help advocates—representing families, teachers, business leaders, civil rights and community leaders, researchers, and policy experts—continue to come together across lines of difference at a time when doing so feels harder—and more important—than ever. You help leaders access the connections, learnings, and strategies needed to take student-centered policy wins to scale across the country.

**To Network members**, thank you for your commitment to this work, each other, and this Network. Students and families are counting on us to build a brighter future for them, our economy, and our democracy.

With gratitude,

Jen & Maya

# MISSION, VISION, CORE BELIEFS & POLICY PILLARS



## VISION

Every student, in every community, has the educational opportunities and experiences necessary to achieve a future without limits.

## MISSION

To connect, strengthen, and catalyze the work of education advocates across communities, states, and ideologies to transform education so every student, in every community, can achieve a future without limits.

## CORE BELIEFS

Members of the PIE Network are united by our belief that education can—and should—be transformative, and that change is needed now so that every student has an equitable and excellent education. We also believe that policy is a critical lever for systems change, establishing expectations, and driving resources to meet needs. We put these beliefs into action by:

- Listening to, engaging, and authentically elevating the leadership of students, families, and educators.
- Using data and evidence to drive innovation, improvement, and quality.
- Changing the system so that policy, funding, and education designs adapt to best support student needs and outcomes.

## POLICY PILLARS

PIE Network members' priorities and strategies are unique to their communities and states. While Network members may not always agree on strategy or issues, all members demonstrate a commitment to upholding and advancing advocacy that includes but is not limited to driving improvements on these four policy pillars:

### High Expectations

Support systems that hold students and educators to consistently high standards for learning, measure and provide actionable and clear data on progress, and establish shared responsibility for results.



### Great Educators

Ensure teachers and leaders are excellent, well-trained educators who continue to improve their instructional practice through support and development guided by meaningful and actionable evaluation.



### Innovative Options

Ensure all families can exercise their power to choose and access diverse, innovative, and excellent educational options designed and resourced to meet the unique needs and interests of their students.



### Responsive Systems

Promote dynamic policies, pathways, leaders, and funding systems that are intentionally designed to best address and adapt to the unique needs of every student.



# COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

PIE Network's Community Agreement, developed by and for Network members, codifies the give-and-get spirit of the Network—and what we believe is PIE Network's secret sauce.

This community agreement between PIE Network members helps actively cultivate a culture of learning, respect, joy, and hospitality. PIE Network members commit to upholding and bringing this agreement to life in Network spaces so that Network members can maximize connections and learning, spark ideas, and catalyze their impact.

We ask all member executive directors to sign on to this agreement as part of the Network's Annual Member Survey. Participants also agree to this when they register for in-person PIE Network events.

## WE BELIEVE

**Connection** is the foundation of the Network.

It builds a network designed to support learning and growth.



## WE COMMIT TO

Get to know each other as professionals and people.

Focus on building authentic connections, sharing experiences, and embracing joy.

Conversations across and about **differences** matter.

The vast majority of us work across lines of difference to change policy, expand opportunity, improve outcomes, and get the job done for students. We believe a deeper understanding of other points of view help us engage and persuade across lines of difference to further our impact.



Engage in **respectful and direct conversations** across lines of difference on challenging issues.

Get curious, listen for understanding, share the mic, keep it respectful, and expect non-closure. Not all conversations will, or need to, end in agreement. We hope the understanding that comes out of discussions is sharper than what went in.

Our members are **experts**.

Meaningful learning and connections often happen when we take risks, are candid about our own experiences, and listen to the perspectives of others. Sharing your truths and hearing others' truths about policy positions and wins and losses is how we learn and how movements for change evolve, improve, and make a lasting impact.



Build **brave Network spaces** to get vulnerable, take risks, and learn.

Take risks together to share our own experiences and learn from the experiences of others. What happens in Network spaces stays there.



# THE CATALYZING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

In 2025, PIE Network leaders worked to move student-centered priorities in states and communities across the country. Advocates worked to shape public understanding, influence politics, and impact policy and implementation to help students recover what they lost during the pandemic, accelerate learning, and innovate to build the education system students need to prepare for a rapidly changing future.

**PIE Network catalyzes the impact of advocacy using our superpowers: *convening and connecting.***

Through more than 200 hours of virtual and in-person programming, thousands of hours of conversations with advocates to listen and learn, thousands more miles traveled, and countless emails, texts, and phone calls, PIE Network connected leaders with expertise, ideas, and skills they need to advance similar goals across city and state lines, and help them look around corners to prepare for opportunities and challenges ahead.

## 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

4.6

Average Bottom-line Satisfaction Score out of 5

1,481

total participants in 38 virtual conversations

58

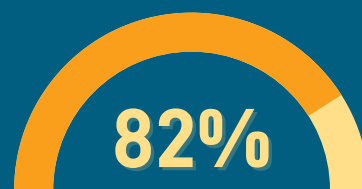
Net-promoter score, in Excellent range, for the 5th consecutive year



94% of participants report learning something new



94% of Network organizations participated in at least one Network event



82% of Network EDs participated in at least one Network event



*As a field, we are lucky to have PIE Network to serve as a convener of education advocates to facilitate peer learning and sharing—which has a multiplier effect on impact.*

Joel Vargas  
Jobs for the Future

*In a changing environment, PIE Network has helped keep the pulse and share invaluable 'just-in-time' information that education advocates need to know to inform strategy, set expectations, and navigate policy and practice discussions in our own networks and communities.*

Chelsea Crawford,  
TennesseeCAN



# THE CATALYZING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

## SUPPORTING MEMBER BREAKTHROUGHS IN EDUCATION FINANCE

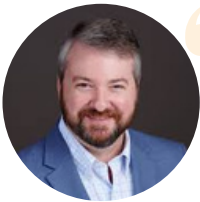
Over the last few years, Network members have prioritized efforts to **ensure that education funding is fair, transparent, and effective in meeting students' needs.**

The Network continues to deliver strong programming and connections to support these efforts. Looking ahead to 2026, **education finance is members' number one policy priority.**

### THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

#### Alabama Modernizes Student Funding Formula

In 2025, Alabama passed the RAISE Act—a generational, bipartisan reform to modernize Alabama's student funding formula to strategically allocate funding to students who need it most. This legislation will result in \$549 million invested in student needs in Alabama over the next three years. PIE Network members in Alabama were instrumental in helping this policy to pass. PIE Network continues to amplify the strategy and lessons learned from this win, which is also the **2025 Game Changer Campaign of the Year.**



*The support that PIE Network offered was invaluable during this process. Learning from other PIE Network members from Tennessee and Mississippi as they navigated this journey a few years ahead of us gave us the blueprint to begin.*

Mark Dixon  
A+ Alabama

**By spotlighting other states' wins over the years, PIE Network helped members across the country to learn from and replicate similar reforms in their communities:**

- 2022: A coalition of Network members in **Tennessee** helped pass Tennessee Education Funding Reform to modernize and enhance the state's education funding formula.
  - PIE Network spotlighted this win at our 2022 Summit and in virtual sessions following, providing inspiration to members seeking to replicate similar reforms.
- 2024: Following this win, Network members in **Mississippi** and **Colorado** helped pass comprehensive education finance reforms, updating outdated funding formulas and ensuring students get the resources they need.
  - PIE Network also spotlighted these wins at our 2024 Summit and in virtual sessions throughout the year to help members learn from these accomplishments.

### LOOKING AHEAD

PIE Network will continue to unpack and expand on this cascade of education funding wins over the past five years and help members tackle new challenges to ensure that students receive the resources they need to thrive.

# **n** THE CATALYZING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK DRIVING READING GAINS THROUGH POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION

Across the country, advocates are leading efforts to improve reading outcomes through strong policy and implementation aligned to the science of reading. Through the Literacy Community of Practice, PIE Network connects and catalyzes the work of members to improve literacy outcomes at the local, state, and national levels.

## THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

In 2025 the Network launched a new [Literacy Policy Portal](#), outlined key actions for advocates to support implementation, created a literacy self-assessment tool, facilitated working sessions at the Summit and the Executive Directors' Meeting, and supported peers through consultancies and direct collaboration.

We also hosted [two literacy-focused site visits](#) in Tennessee and New York City for members to see how state and local policy translated to classroom practice and student learning. Members who participated in these highly-rated site visits gained critical insights that inform their advocacy efforts:

*“Combination of the pre-read resources (rich, robust, so helpful) + hearing from ‘on the ground’ folks doing the work in the site visit + visiting the sites (and hearing from admin and teachers in the sites doing the work) = new learning and thinking.”*

*“I was so very impressed by the ecosystem approach to literacy, which I am committed to deepening in my state.”*

*“I loved the inclusion of states in various states of literacy advocacy and implementation. I think it’s critical for thinking about it holistically. The coalition conversations and building a strong stakeholder base I found particularly useful as that is a weak spot in my state.”*



These site visits were **catalytic moments** for the Network, helping evidence-based practices take hold and spread. Network leaders reported taking **key actions to advance literacy efforts** in their communities:

- A member organization is developing a foundational literacy course for families to deepen their understanding of evidence-based literacy practices, as well as a complementary course for principals who do not have a background in literacy.
- A member shared Tennessee's classroom observation guide with local district leaders, opening doors to conversations about creating standardized walkthrough processes.
- Inspired by New York City's effective literacy coalition, a member restructured and improved their state's literacy coalition following the NYC site visit.



**Advocates advanced literacy policy and implementation wins, including:**

- **California:** passed Assembly Bill 1454, and its companion budget bill, which includes updating teacher training, curriculum materials, and additional resources for students
- **D.C.:** supported the implementation of high-impact tutoring, which was a core strategy that led to DC being first in academic recovery in the nation from 2022 to 2024; also passed legislation **requiring science of reading training for teachers** to build on the existing **policy** requiring high-quality instructional materials adoption for early literacy
- **Michigan:** implemented the Reading for All Law, passed in 2024, which created a state system of identifying and better supporting students with reading challenges, plus invested millions in teacher professional development and grants to purchase state-approved curriculum based in the science of reading
- **Tennessee:** in addition to the states' robust literacy policies already on the books, passed SB1423, which requires student report cards to include their current reading grade level as measured by an approved literacy screener
- **Texas:** passed House Bill 2, which includes screeners, reading interventions, and tutoring supports

**LOOKING AHEAD**

We will continue to support momentum in 2026, since Network members named literacy policy and implementation a top priority for the year ahead.

# THE CATALYZING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK ADVANCING THE POLICY CONVERSATION IN MATH

As many states shift their work on literacy from policy to implementation, several are now beginning to focus on math. [Startling data](#) from the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show that students' math achievement is declining, while careers of the future will likely require strong math and data science proficiency. Through the 'Math Multipliers' Community of Practice, PIE Network supports a growing number of Network members who are actively working to improve math policy and practice.



## THE NETWORK'S IMPACT



After the first in-person Math Multipliers working meeting in 2024, the group co-created a [Math Policy Framework](#) which outlines the recommended policies and practices that states and districts could adopt to improve math outcomes. This framework was cited in a [USA Today article](#) on how to improve student outcomes in math and has been used widely.

*PIE Network members across the country advanced math policy, including:*

- **Alabama:** worked alongside the Alabama Department of Education to leverage the tool, particularly to inform how they implement math-focused professional learning

- **Illinois:** leveraged the document in work at the state level to write math guidance issued by the SEA

- **New York:** used the tool to inform their advocacy strategy on both local and state levels

- **Ohio:** reported using it as a foundation for their coalition's state math policy platform

*“PIE Network's Communities of Practice offered a space to workshop plans, pressure-test messaging, and learn from those advancing similar reforms. Peer insights about curriculum implementation challenges, scaling high-quality materials, and securing buy-in helped us anticipate and overcome roadblocks.”*

## LOOKING AHEAD

We will support momentum around math policy and implementation, as PIE Network members ranked it a top priority for 2026. PIE Network continues to convene and partner with leaders to curate math policy tools and resources, including a new Math Policy Portal slated for launch in 2026.

# THE CATALYZING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

## IMPROVING STUDENTS' PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE & CAREER

PIE Network members bring growing energy and momentum to advance student-centered, high-quality policies, programs, and supports to prepare students for success on their pathway to and through college and careers. Network members are increasingly prioritizing this work, with a third of members reporting that they plan to prioritize college and career in their advocacy work in the year ahead.

PIE Network launched the College and Career Community of Practice to strengthen connections, share knowledge, and sharpen strategy among members working in the college and career policy space at the local, state, and national level.



### THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

In addition to many hours of virtual and in-person programming, consultancies, and direct technical assistance, the College and Career Community of Practice hosted several catalytic events, including:

#### *Helping Students Attend and Complete College*

In the fall of 2024, PIE Network partnered with national experts from the CUNY ASAP/ACE Replication Collaborative to help advocates learn about the policies, politics, and practices behind the 2-year (ASAP) and 4-year (ACE) models. This experience included two virtual discussions and an in-person visit to speak with students, advisors, and higher education leaders in North Carolina. Participants rated the experience 4.8/5.0, and 100% reported learning something new they planned to use in their work.

In January 2025, as a follow-up to the visit, PIE Network created an [ASAP/ACE Advocacy Toolkit](#) to support members as they seek to replicate similar models in their communities. The CUNY ASAP/ACE team is now using this toolkit in their replication work with external partners from other states, and we will continue to support members on this effort.

#### *Supporting Work-based Learning Opportunities*

In summer 2025, PIE Network partnered with Strada Education Foundation to conduct a series of virtual sessions focused on work-based learning. The series included conversations about the importance of work-based learning, states' roles in creating these systems, and how advocates can support high-quality work-based learning in their communities. Participants rated these sessions a 4.5 / 5.0 bottom-line satisfaction score, and we continue to support members' efforts in this area.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The PIE Network team will convene a career and technical education (CTE) working group to provide more intensive support for members advocating for improved CTE and training opportunities. Network members are also increasingly advocating at the intersection of K-12 and higher education. Spurred by member requests, the PIE Network team will launch a working group on higher education funding reform.

# THE CATALYZING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

## HELPING MEMBERS NAVIGATE A SHIFTING FEDERAL ROLE

2025 brought significant changes to federal education policy, with more changes likely. A reduced federal role means that states and local communities, who already set the majority of education policy, will need to take an even greater role in building policies and practices to ensure all students have access to high-quality opportunities. PIE Network members play a critical role. PIE Network continues to support members to understand shifts, what they mean for states, and how to respond.



*“As someone primarily tasked with tracking only state policies, I have found it so helpful to attend the federal update webinars to better understand all of the potential impacts and opportunities related to federal funding and policy changes.”*

*Jessica Shopoff, Texas Public Charter School Association*

### THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

#### ***Federal Policy Forecast Sessions***

Throughout 2025, PIE Network held monthly calls with Lindsay Fryer ([Lodestone DC](#)), as well as sessions at Summit and the Executives' Meeting, to share the latest intel and updates on federal education policy. Combined, more than 300 Network leaders joined these virtual conversations in 2025. Members consistently find deep value in these conversations, which earned an average bottom-line score of 4.6/5.0.

When urgent developments unfolded, PIE Network supported its members to take action. For example, in summer 2025, PIE Network helped members learn about and take coordinated action to release \$7 billion in federal funds that Congress had already appropriated and that states and districts were counting on.

#### ***Protecting Assessment & Accountability***

In a shifting federal policy environment, some states are seeking more flexibility under federal law to design and resource their K-12 school systems. This presents opportunities to innovate and strengthen system goals, monitor individual student progress, and provide support to ensure outcomes are improving across all student groups and schools. At the same time, this flexibility could risk moving away from foundational drivers of student improvement, such as the ability to measure and compare student achievement against rigorous standards within a state (as outlined in the PIE Network member-created [Guiding Principles on Assessment & Accountability](#)).

To help states seek positive flexibility and defend against concepts that would weaken state systems, PIE Network has facilitated collaboration, including federal policy waiver analyses, targeted talking points, collateral materials, and strategy conversations to maintain rigor, comparability, and disaggregated data analyses.

### LOOKING AHEAD

PIE Network will continue to hold monthly federal policy forecast conversations with Lindsay Fryer and work to ensure that members have the tools, resources, and capacity to navigate changes to federal education policy and programs.

# 2025 EXECUTIVES MEETING

## 2025 EXECUTIVES' MEETING

NEW ORLEANS, LA | FEBRUARY 26-28, 2025

The Executives' Meeting is the only meeting each year reserved exclusively for Network leads. Frequently described by leaders as one-part professional development and one-part therapy, this experience is designed to create space for executives to forge connections with peers, problem-solve, brainstorm new policy ideas and advocacy strategies, and prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead. The meeting is held in the midst of state and local legislative sessions so that leaders can share real-time updates, spot trends, and take learnings home and apply them to the remainder of their campaigns for the year. At the 2025 Executives' Meeting, advocates discussed pressing and emerging issues in education policy and advocacy. The agenda featured discussions about the impact of the upcoming 2026 elections, sharing updates from members' policy and advocacy campaigns and legislative sessions, a look at the current shifts in federal education policy, as well as consultancies and skill-building workshops for members to deepen their practice.



*PIE Network flawlessly combines logistical efficiency, substantive content, and networking time, particularly at its in-person events.*

*Evan Stone, Educators for Excellence*



*PIE Network offers valuable thought partnership, peer connections, and a strategic bird's-eye view of the education advocacy landscape. The convenings are well-curated and relevant, and the relationships we've built have been instrumental to our growth—especially as we navigate complex implementation work.*

*Michelle Vilchez, Innovate Public Schools*



## 2025 EXECUTIVES' MEETING BY THE NUMBERS

26

states and Washington, D.C. were represented

86

Executive Directors participated

4.7

Average Bottom-line Satisfaction Score out of 5



of Network organizations were represented



of leaders were joining for the first time

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

## 2025 PIE NETWORK SUMMIT

### ATLANTA, GEORGIA OCT 7-9

## 2025 PIE NETWORK SUMMIT

### ATLANTA, GA | OCTOBER 7-9, 2025

PIE Network Summit is an invitation-only experience that attracts more than 400 leaders annually, including a high-profile roster of local, state, and national education policy and advocacy leaders. During the 2025 PIE Network Summit, participants connected across lines of difference, shared ideas, sharpened strategy, strengthened old connections, built new ones, and energized for the hard work back home. The 2025 Summit featured a special opening keynote session with state chiefs and a deep dive into "Good Conflict" with Amanda Ripley and Hélène Biandudi Hofer during the closing session. **For the fifth year in a row, the Summit had record-high participation.**

*"This was top-notch and one of the best-organized conferences I've attended... and fun amid the heaviness of the world today."*

*"PIE Network Summit has great policy panels and connections to experts in their fields; wonderful opportunities to connect with folks across partisan lines and in different organizations; and it's always fun."*

*"There is so much knowledge and power in the room at the Summit. It's truly inspiring and the connections you can make are invaluable!"*

## 18TH ANNUAL SUMMIT BY THE NUMBERS

455

Network leaders participated

87

Executive Directors participated

38

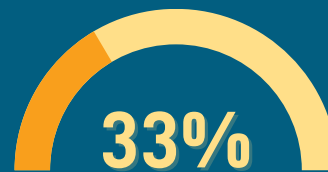
states and Washington, D.C. were represented

4.6

Average Bottom-line Satisfaction Score out of 5



of Network organizations were represented



of leaders were joining for the first time

## SURVEY CAPTURES PRIMARY VOTERS' VIEWS ON KEY EDUCATION ISSUES

At the 2025 PIE Network Summit, PIE Network released a [new poll on voters' views of key education issues](#) conducted by bipartisan pollsters, [Up One Insights](#) and [Impact Research](#). Given the [growing evidence](#) that state and local general elections are [less competitive](#) than primaries, this survey oversampled primary voters. The findings illuminate broad cross-partisan support for a range of key PIE Network members' policy priorities, including assessment and accountability systems, high-quality literacy and math instruction, innovative options, and meaningful college and career pathways.

## THE EDDIES!

Each year at Summit, PIE Network hosts the Eddies Awards, a celebration of the year's breakthrough policy and advocacy campaigns in the Network. At this dinner and awards ceremony, we feature Eddies finalists, announce winners, and joyfully highlight progress toward ensuring every student has the educational opportunities and support needed to achieve a future without limits. The finalists are also featured throughout Summit and virtual Network programming—enabling participants to learn more about the policy and advocacy wins that drive impactful policy change and take these policy and advocacy ideas to scale in their states and communities.

**Network leaders from across the country nominated 60 powerful policy and advocacy campaigns that have the potential to impact more than 12 million students.**

Network members voted for winners in six categories. Read about nominees and winners on the [PIE Network website](#).



**Best Collaboration:** Accelerating Auto-Enrollment in Advanced Coursework Across America (The 5 A's)  
*BEST NC, Collaborative for Student Success, EdTrust, ExcelinEd, Prichard Committee*



**Best Defense:** All Means All: Protecting The Right to Learn in Tennessee  
*All4Ed, EdTrust-Tennessee, Stand for Children Tennessee*



**Best Implementation:** DC High-Impact Tutoring Leads to Fastest Academic Recovery in the Nation  
*DC Charter School Alliance, DC Policy Center, Education Forward DC, EmpowerK12, Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)*



**Best Kept Secret:** From Hidden Literacy Crisis to Historic Win; The Fight for Data Transparency  
*Nashville PROPEL*



**Game Changer Campaign of the Year:** Giving Alabama Students a RAISE with Student-Centered Funding Reform  
*A+ Education Partnership, Alabama Families for Great Schools, EdTrust-Tennessee*



**Peter Tang Most Actionable Tools and Research: Credentials Matter:** Equipping Tennessee Leaders with Tools to Align Education and Workforce Demand  
*ExcelinEd, Jobs for the Future, New America, Tennessee SCORE*



**Suzanne Kubach Network Weaver of the Year:**  
Rebecca Sibilia  
*EdFund*



# SUPPORTING & SUSTAINING LEADERS

## CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AND OVER 200 ALUMS

PIE Network Leadership Institute is a cohort-based, year-long leadership opportunity to help leaders sharpen skills and build a cohort of peers to help them lead change in complex political climates. This highly sought after program is among the most intensive Network offerings. In 2025, PIE Network wrapped the Cohort 9 and launched **Cohort 10**.

The 21 dynamic leaders in Cohort 10 bring rich layers of diversity across experience, race, politics, strategy, and stakeholders to this work. They kicked off their experience in Los Angeles in November and will meet again this spring and summer.

Upon completing the program in 2026, Cohort 10 will join more than 200 alums who are leading advocacy, public sector, and philanthropic work to ensure that every student, in every community, has an opportunity to achieve a future without limits. Alumni gather each year for a Leadership Institute reunion at the PIE Network Summit.



***“This has been the best development experience of my professional life.”***  
Jonathan Feinstein, EdTrust in Texas

***“This experience re-grounded me and why I believe the work of education policy and advocacy is so incredibly important. Knowing that there are others doing this work and facing similar challenges and being able to draw from their experiences was pivotal. There comes a point in your leadership journey where the best learning will come from peers and getting with like-minded individuals, the ones who push you to be a better leader.”***

Colleston Morgan Jr., City Forward Collective



***“Leadership Institute helped me embrace the skills and long-term thinking I needed to recommit myself to policy leadership in a sustainable way.”***

Alyssa Morton, Empower Schools



***We will accept applications for and launch Cohort 11 of Leadership Institute in late summer 2026.***



## LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE BY THE NUMBERS

**70+**

Hours of Leadership Development for Each Cohort

**205**

Total Alumni

**96%**

of All Alums Continue to Lead in Education or Political Sectors

**57%**

of Alums Continue to Lead at a Network Member Organization

**39%**

of Alums Hold a Senior Ed or Political Role, or Started a New Ed Policy Venture Outside of the Network

**3**

Alums Serving as Current or Former State Education Chiefs

**3**

Alums Worked in Presidential Administration after Experience

**1**

Alums Serving as State Legislator

## HELPING LEADERS BUILD FUNDRAISING SKILLS

PIE Network leaders tell us that fundraising is one of their greatest challenges. PIE Network launched a Fundraising Cohort to help build leaders' fundraising skills and capacity. We partnered with leading national experts to facilitate the experience through a series of intensive virtual and in-person sessions. During the 2025 Cohort (the second cohort to date), we supported 25 executives and senior leaders.

*“The content was extremely practical, I appreciated the opportunities for practice, and it was helpful to be in a cohort to hear the challenges others were experiencing.”*

*“Every session was anchored in actionable tools and frameworks that I have found easy to use. Each session also had us practice & apply what we learned—this was INCREDIBLY useful to ensure I internalized what we were being taught.”*

*“All of the sessions were really, really practical and useful right after we finished a session. They were relentless about having people practice while we were meeting to make sure the lessons were sticking. The ratio of time spent to usefulness was really high.”*

# LOOKING AHEAD: PREPARING FOR 2026

In the 2026 elections, 36 states will hold gubernatorial elections, and in 16 of those states, the current governor is term-limited. In addition, more than 6,000 state legislative offices are up for election, virtually guaranteeing that many states will see significant changes in their state's elected and appointed education policy and legislative leadership.

*During times of change and leadership transition, PIE Network members play a critical role in keeping the focus on students, sustaining progress on key education priorities, and building support for new ones.*

*To support these efforts members, PIE Network hosted a series of conversations with Network leaders who shared their experiences and strategies for navigating leadership transitions effectively. In 2026, the Network will continue to host these strategy sessions and launch an online hub with actionable resources, tools, guides, and how-to's developed by Network leaders.*



*What sets PIE Network apart is the unprecedented network of thought partners and leaders it convenes—bringing together some of the most strategic, mission-driven minds in education policy. The talent and expertise PIE Network leverages to engage with members, coupled with its genuine commitment to listening and responding to the field's evolving needs, makes the Network an invaluable partner for anyone working to drive meaningful, lasting impact.*

*Jay Artis Wright, Freedom to Choose Schools*

# 2026 MEMBER PRIORITIES

Network members continue to advance student-centered policies at the local, state, and federal level to meet the urgent needs of the moment and improve education long term. Here are the priorities advocates named for 2026. Read more about members' priorities in our [2025 Annual Member Survey](#).

## TOP TEN POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1 Education Funding
- 2 Charter School Funding and Expansion
- 3 Assessments and Accountability
- 4 College and Career Pathways
- 5 Literacy
- 6 Math
- 7 Charter Facilities Funding
- 8 Educator Preparation and Licensure
- 9 Higher Education and Workforce Development
- 10 Early Learning



*I deeply value this network. The staff's support is intentional, consistent, and powerful, and the peer learning culture is generous and affirming in ways that are rare. It stands out as one of the strongest and most meaningful communities I've had the privilege to be part of.*

Ethan Ashley  
School Board Partners

## TOP TEN IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

- 1 College and Career Pathways in K12, Higher Education and Workforce Development
- 2 Literacy and Math
- 3 Charter Funding, Expansion, and Facilities Funding
- 4 Educator Preparation, Diversity, and Licensure, Principal Preparation, and Innovative Staffing Models
- 5 Education Funding
- 6 Assessments and Accountability
- 7 State Longitudinal Data Systems and Research Capacity
- 8 Support for Multilingual Learners/ English Learners
- 9 Tutoring
- 10 Artificial Intelligence

# GROWING THE NETWORK

## MEMBERSHIP GREW BY NEARLY 50% IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

PIE Network is growing and evolving to reflect the full scope, scale, and dynamic energy of the advocacy sector. In 2007, 12 state advocacy organizations and national partners founded the Network to strengthen the nascent education reform movement by leveraging connections and collaboration to take great work to scale. As of December 2025, the Network includes nearly 190 local, state, and national education advocacy and policy organizations working in 38 states and D.C.

The demand for Network membership remains high, with many organizations expressing interest in joining the Network.



Organizations interested in joining the PIE Network can [submit a membership interest form](#) and often reach out through a referral from a [current PIE Network member](#) or Network friend.

Applications are open two times each year. To be eligible, organizations must engage in primarily policy and advocacy work and be aligned with the [Network's policy pillars](#). PIE Network staff and the Network's [Membership Committee](#) consider all applicants and make recommendations to the [Board of Directors](#). Look for PIE Network members in your state or community on our [website](#).

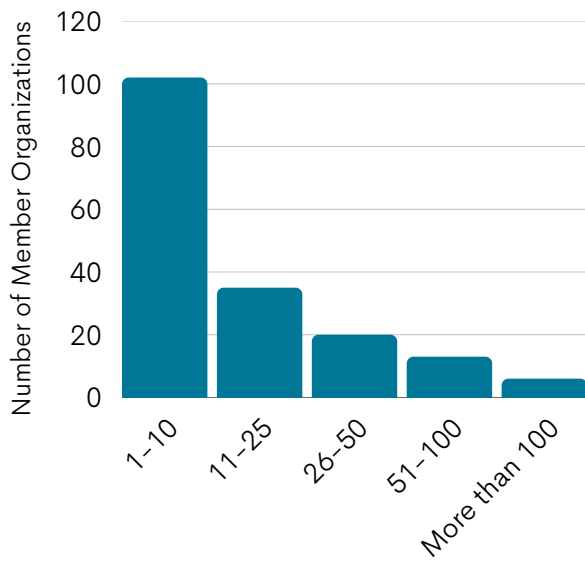
## PIE NETWORK WELCOMED 16 NEW MEMBERS IN 2025

- [Bipartisan Policy Center](#)
- [City Education Partners](#)
- [Denver Families for Public Schools](#)
- [Futuro San Antonio](#)
- [Great Schools NC](#)
- [Latinos for Education](#)
- [Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative](#)
- [MindshiftED Parent Institute](#)
- [Philanthropy Advocates](#)
- [Progressive Policy Institute: Reinventing America's Schools](#)
- [Rhode Island Education Collective](#)
- [South Dakota Education Equity Coalition](#)
- [Texas 2036](#)
- [The Chicago Public Education Fund](#)
- [The Mind Trust](#)
- [Transcend](#)

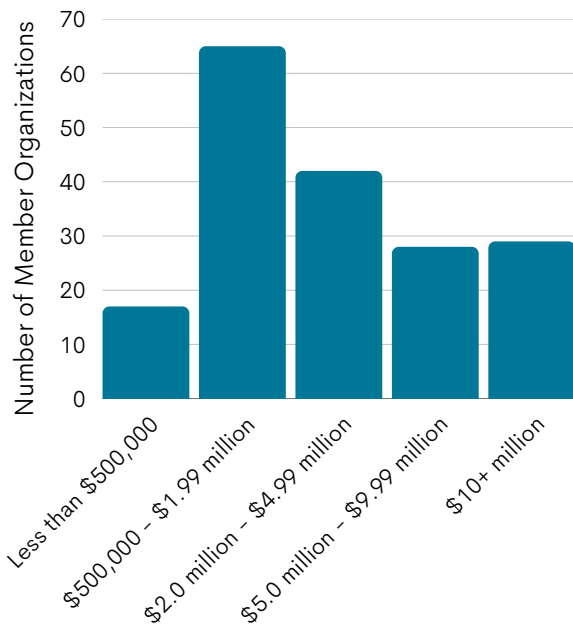
*The Network also regularly exits members who are no longer aligned to the Network's policy pillars, are no longer active in education policy and advocacy, or no longer engage with the Network.*

# ABOUT THE NETWORK

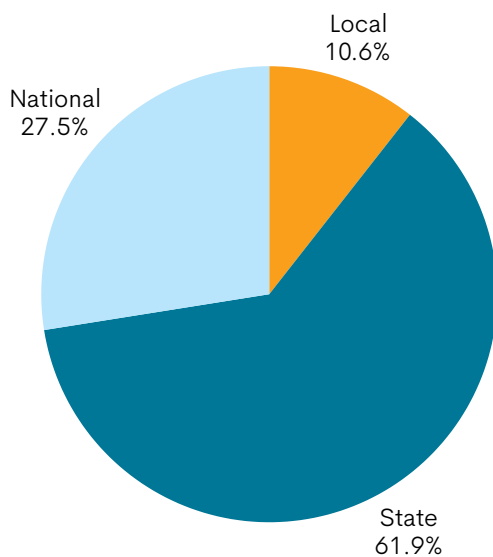
## NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS



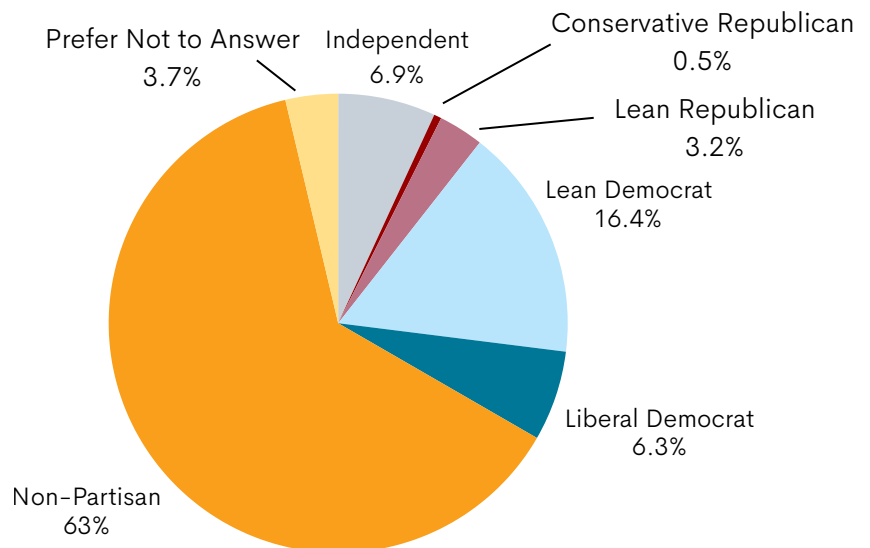
## BUDGET SIZE



## MEMBER TYPE



## POLITICAL LEANING



*“PIE Network is one of the few places promoting cross-partisan and cross-position dialogue and discourse.”*

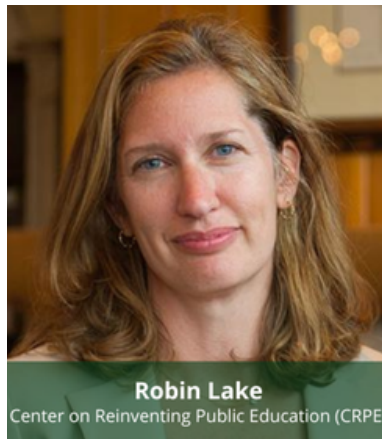
Heather Peske  
National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## A NETWORK BY AND FOR ADVOCATES

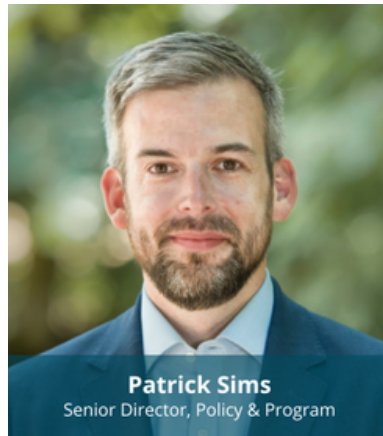
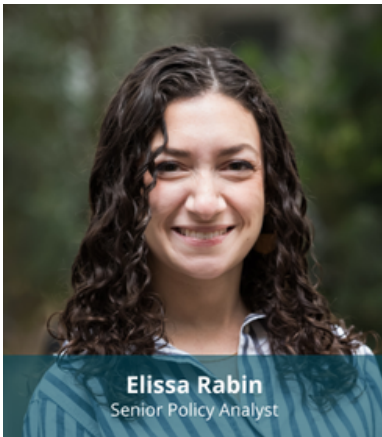
Each Board member leads a PIE Network member or partner organization. **Their collective leadership and expertise ensure that PIE Network continues to provide relevant and timely support to advocates.** PIE Network is also guided by a talented group of leaders who serve on several committees: Development, Finance, Membership, and Policy.



# PIE NETWORK TEAM

## WE LISTEN, CONVENE AND CONNECT TO SUPPORT YOU

Members of the PIE Network Team are keen listeners for common needs, emerging issues, and collective impact trending within and across states. We create the opportunities for connections that lead to collaboration and that spread good ideas, resources, and know-how to strengthen the reform movement. Learn more about the PIE Network team on our [website](#).



# FINANCIALS & SUPPORTERS

PIE Network  
Policy Innovators  
in Education

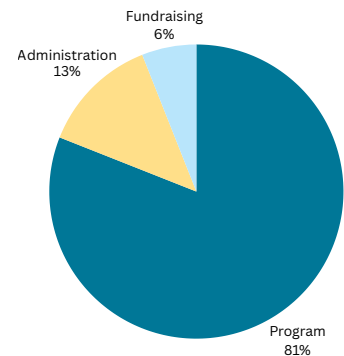
## 2025 YEAR END

PIE Network has achieved clean audit results each year of operation and plans to continue that tradition for 2025. We will conduct our annual financial audit in early 2026.

To the right is a summary of our 2025 financials. *Additional financial information is available upon request.* Reach out to [marques@pie-network.org](mailto:marques@pie-network.org) for more details.

- 2025 Revenue: \$3,992,805
- 2025 Expenses: \$3,810,321

## FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



Thank you to the Network's funders and sponsors, whose support makes our work possible.

## PIE NETWORK FUNDERS



## 2025 EXECUTIVES' MEETING SPONSOR



## 2025 SUMMIT SPONSORS





## DONATE

Reach out to [jennifer@pie-network.org](mailto:jennifer@pie-network.org) for more details on how to support the Network.

## FOLLOW US



## JOIN THE NETWORK

Share your [interest](#) on our website.

## SECTOR JOBS

Find opportunities in the Network and beyond on the [PIE Network Job Board](#).