



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CATALYZING IMPACT





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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear friend,

It's hard to believe. In January 2024, we celebrated five years since Jen began serving as PIE Network Executive Director. In the last five years, PIE Network has:

- Grown 64%—from 109 members to 179 members—with a robust pipeline of organizations interested in joining the Network moving forward.
- Achieved a record-high Net Promoter Score of 69, in the “Excellent” range for three years running during a time of rapid expansion.
- Maintained high member engagement, even as we've grown, with 94% of Network members participating in Network programs in the last year alone.
- Gathered powerful stories of impact, showing how the Network seeded ground for policy wins in communities across the country.
- Adapted and evolved to support, connect, and catalyze members' work in new ways, including virtual sessions, smaller learning communities, site visits, Policy Portals, 1-to-1 support, and more.
- Supported leadership development through five new Leadership Institute cohorts, annual gatherings of our nearly 200 alumni, and ongoing skill-building workshops.
- Improved our internal capacity and operations to better support members in the midst of our significant growth and adaptation.

The last five years have been a whirlwind of uncertainty and disruption—from the COVID-19 pandemic to global unrest and suffering, economic uncertainty, national reckonings on race and diversity, deep political divisions, culture wars, and powerful new technology innovations. Through all of it, PIE Network has evolved into a stronger and more essential community of support for advocates across the country. And we must be strong because the challenges and opportunities ahead will require fierce advocacy to shift power and change policy in favor of students.

We've all seen the data calling us to action: far too many students are struggling in COVID's wake, achievement gaps are wider, budgets are tighter (especially as ESSER funds fade away), student enrollments are declining, and the tomorrow in which today's students will need to thrive is rapidly changing.

And all of this is happening at a time of deep political divisions as we head into an election season that may be one of the most consequential in our lifetimes.

Now is the time, and this is the moment for long-needed changes in how we educate and prepare students for what's ahead.

As we reflect on the last five years and look ahead to the next chapter of PIE Network, we're inspired and energized by Network members' work, and we're reminded that advocacy and policy change is essential to create the conditions needed for every student to succeed.

Some of us have been doing this work for quite a while (and have the battle scars to prove it!). With years of experience, we can forget what it would be like NOT to have advocates in the room, doing the work. Without advocates, the status quo would continue to dominate the conversation.

So what is it that advocates do? Advocates balance help, heat, and hope.*

Advocates provide **help**: technical support and political cover for leaders to enact and implement change. **Heat**: advocates turn up pressure and hold leaders accountable when they aren't doing enough. And **hope**: advocates lift up examples of success for students that inspire, energize, and help show change is possible and within reach.

Effective advocates figure out how to balance these three competing forces: help, heat, and hope.

Members of the PIE Network do this every day. Advocates tell hard truths and ask hard questions to uncover data and raise public awareness of problems; we research, amplify, and build support for solutions; we organize communities, we register and turn out voters who prioritize education; we work with the press and influence public opinion; we help build political champions and coalitions in legislatures, city halls, and school boards; and we bring voices that have too often been underserved and overlooked to the decision making and negotiating table. We take action, often behind the scenes—without credit or fanfare—all in the service of shifting power, policymaking, and implementation in favor of students and families.

There are so many examples—read on for many, including from our annual [Eddies awards](#)—about how advocates tell hard truths, build support for solutions, influence change, and activate community power. Sometimes this happens during a short window of opportunity, and other times that window of opportunity is pried open after many years of pushing.

To our funders, we are so grateful for your support and partnership that makes 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, and politicians—continue to come together to access the connections, learnings, and strategies needed to take student-centered policy wins to scale across the country.

To Network members, we hope you never forget how important your advocacy is. Please, always remember that you can turn to this Network—to your colleagues—to help inspire and support you in this work to ensure that every student, in every community, gets the education needed to achieve a future without limits.

With gratitude,

Jen & Evan

**Full credit for "help, heat, and hope" goes to Paul Herdman at RODEL in Delaware, a longtime PIE Network member. When Jen first transitioned from national policy to state-based advocacy over a decade ago, one of the very first people she called for advice was Paul. His advice stuck. Thanks, Paul!*

MISSION, VISION & POLICY PILLARS



“When I think of PIE Network, I don’t know if I would be doing this job if the Network didn’t exist...I remember the feeling I had when I left the 2023 Summit in Nashville...I felt so good, so fulfilled, and so re-energized. It was hard to express how good it feels to be in a room of people who care about and respect you. Without a Network of people I can pick up and call, I am not sure I would be doing this work.”

Amanda Aragon, NewMexicoKidsCAN

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.

“PIE Network content is timely, actionable, and relevant to everything we face in our state, and the PIE Network team is second to none. The work we do is challenging and stressful and often hard for others to understand. It’s so valuable to come together with peers who ‘get it’ and can help be a pragmatic thought partner.”

John Fitzpatrick, Educate Texas



MISSION, VISION & POLICY PILLARS



“PIE Network has offered me the **safest and most encouraging environment to lead as a woman of color**. The Network staff goes above and beyond to elevate the best of ideas and to offer opportunities for us to share our expertise.”

Paula Cole, Educators for Excellence-Minnesota

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.



% Members Who Report Working on Each Pillar

According to the 2023 Annual Member Survey

“This is the **best single organization** to support any organization committed to advocacy in the education space!”

Tony Roberts, Georgia Public Charter Schools Association



GROWING THE NETWORK

64% GROWTH IN FIVE YEARS, ADDING 70 NEW NETWORK MEMBERS

PIE Network is growing and evolving to reflect the advocacy sector's full scope, scale, and dynamic energy.

PIE Network was founded in 2006 by 12 state advocacy organizations and national partners to strengthen the nascent education reform movement by leveraging connections and collaboration to take great work to scale. As of March 2024, the Network includes nearly 180 local, state, and national education advocacy and policy organizations working in 37 states and D.C. Our members are powerful and diverse champions for students whose organizations lead efforts to transform education so every learner can succeed. Network members represent students, families, educators, business and civic leaders, researchers, and policy experts who share a commitment to [core values](#) and [policy pillars](#).

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

In 2024, we will conduct a landscape scan of potential members to inform our strategic growth. 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. Network staff then conduct due diligence to determine an organization's alignment to the Network's membership criteria and invite aligned members to submit a membership application. Successful applications highlight the organization's policy and advocacy work aligned with the Network's policy pillars. Once a quarter, the Network's [Membership Committee](#) reviews each membership application against the Network's membership criteria and makes a recommendation to the Network's [Board of Directors](#). The Board votes on membership applications at each of its quarterly meetings.

PIE NETWORK WELCOMED 21 NEW MEMBERS IN 2023

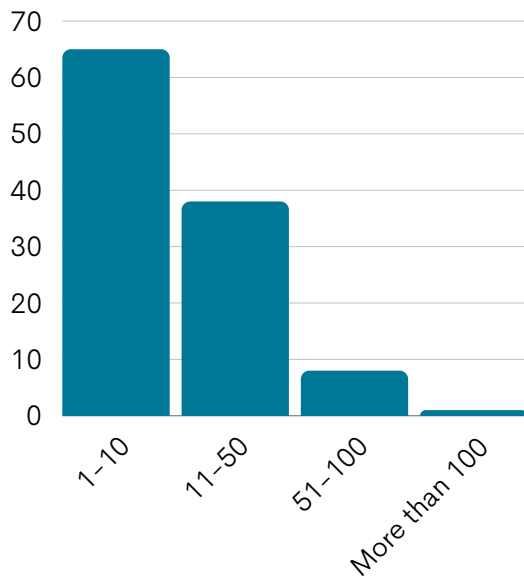
- [Alabama Families for Great Schools](#)
- [Baton Rouge Alliance for Students](#)
- [Committee for Children](#)
- [Connecticut Charter Schools Association](#)
- [DFER Massachusetts](#)
- [Diverse Charter Schools Coalition](#)
- [Diversity in Leadership Institute](#)
- [Education Reimagined](#)
- [EmpowerK12](#)
- [Empower Schools](#)
- [Hoover Education Success Initiative](#)
- [Jobs for the Future](#)
- [Mass Insight Education & Research Institute](#)
- [Nashville Propel](#)
- [National Charter Collaborative](#)
- [New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association](#)
- [New York Charter Schools Association](#)
- [RISE Indy](#)
- [Teach Plus Michigan](#)
- [US Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#)
- [Virginia Learns](#)

GROWING THE NETWORK

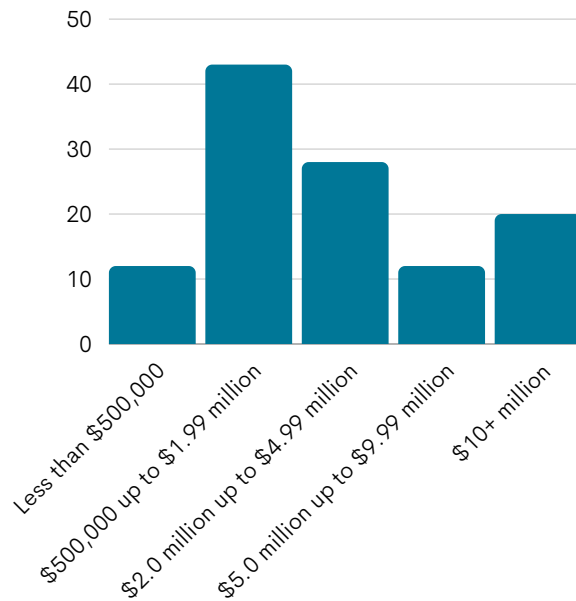
Look for PIE Network members in your state or community on our [website](#).

ABOUT THE NETWORK

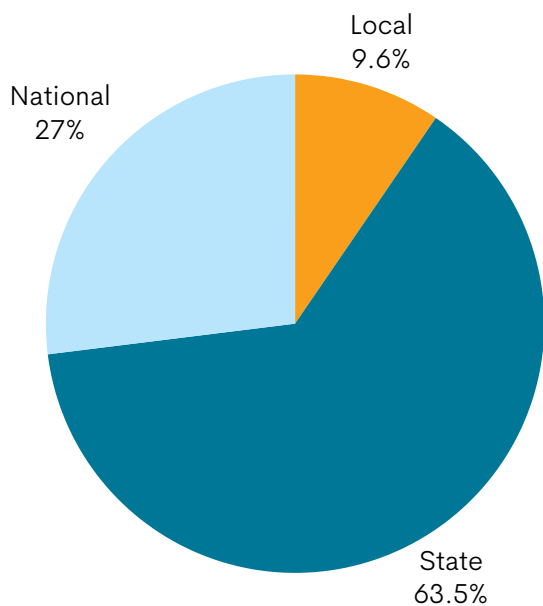
NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS



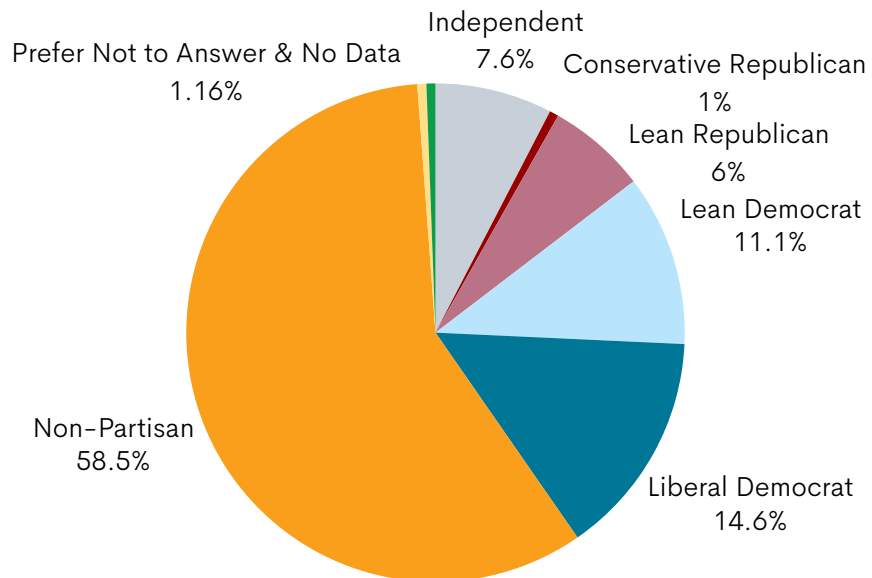
BUDGET SIZE



MEMBER TYPE



POLITICAL LEANING



THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK



*“I call PIE Network a **North Star organization**. It's important to get the perspective of PIE Network members—they help you reaffirm and refine who your organization really is. The partnerships via PIE Network offer new insights and solutions. It's the best.”*

Matt Pahl, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico

ADVOCACY HAS NEVER MATTERED MORE

In 2023, PIE Network leaders worked tirelessly to organize, build coalitions, shape public understanding, influence politics, and shape policy to chart a course forward, one that will 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 multiplies the impact of advocacy using our superpowers: *convening and connecting.*

Through more than 150 hours of virtual and in-person programming, thousands of hours of conversations with advocates to listen and learn, thousands more miles traveled, and countless direct connections between advocates, 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.

*“It is the **premier uniter in the education reform space**. It never ceases to amaze me the 'big tent' we fall under, and PIE Network can provide a safe seat in the tent for everyone.”*

Marcus Brandon, NorthCarolinaCAN



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

150

hours of in-person and virtual programming

1,711

in-person and virtual participants

4.5

Average Bottom Line Satisfaction Score out of 5

69

Net-promoter score, in Excellent range, for the third year

86%

of participants report learning something new

94%

of Network organizations participated in at least one Network event

84%

of Network EDs participated in at least one Network event

THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

PIE NETWORK CATALYZES MEMBERS TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE & DIVERSE TEACHING PROFESSION

PIE Network leaders seek to advance promising ideas to build a more sustainable, effective, and diverse teaching profession, especially as massive staffing challenges continue to disrupt pandemic recovery and learning acceleration efforts. Network survey data show this issue has become a top priority for Network members in 2024.

THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

To build strong connections and catalyze learning in this area, PIE Network hosted a site visit for 35 advocates to Edgecombe County in North Carolina to see innovative and high-quality educator staffing models and learn about the policies that support them. Edgecombe County, a rural, majority-Black district, implemented Advanced Teaching Roles, a statewide policy led by PIE Network member BEST NC, and offers a high-quality model within a strong state policy framework. Participants dove into the state policy context, learned how these innovations are being implemented in the district, and saw them in action in classrooms.

Since the visit, participants have exchanged legislative language, collaborated to create new resources, started conversations with state and district leaders to generate interest in launching new models, and continued coordinating with other participants they met on the North Carolina site visit. The Network will continue convening leaders and tracking the impact on innovative staffing and transforming the teaching profession and is currently planning another site visit to see the ASU model in action in Spring 2024.

*Understanding the policy and legislative landscape to get a program like this across the finish line is very important. **Seeing the program in action allows all of the dots to connect.** Having the opportunity to dive into both is extremely valuable for policy advocates.*

*I appreciated the ability to process what I was seeing live with colleagues doing similar work and connect what we saw to other work underway. It was really a chance to think about **how this specific innovation fit into other bodies of work that should be better connected.***



THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

“Our Policy Director attended the NC Site Visit on Opportunity Culture and shared that this was extremely helpful to her work building out new policy recommendations and strategies around excellent educators here in our state. She shared her learning in a state-level working group about the educator workforce and has **started strategizing how to bring the model and/or lessons of the model to our state.**”

 **Tafshier Cosby**
@TafshierCosby

A truly wonderful experience in Edgecomb, North Carolina with my fellow leaders from the @PIEnetwork Implementing opportunity culture and advance teaching roles will be transformational for families across the US.



THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

PIE NETWORK SUPPORTS MEMBERS TO TAKE ACTION ON PENDING FISCAL CLIFF

A storm is brewing in school finance, with federal ESSER funds set to expire, districts facing declining enrollment, and advocates navigating other fiscal challenges on the horizon. Building on previous Network programming on ESSER tracking and advocacy, PIE Network continued to host working sessions to help advocates prepare for the fiscal cliff in their states and communities.

THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

PIE Network hosted several conversations in 2023 to help advocates prepare for the financial challenges ahead, including virtual sessions on State and District Financial Outlooks, Pensions and Educational Equity, Preparing for the Fiscal Cliff, and a Summit discussion on Accounting for the Financial Storm Ahead. These discussions led to several collaborations between Network members. In D.C., the D.C. Policy Center released a report on the fiscal future of public education in the District of Columbia, influenced by training from Edunomics, with a release event featuring other PIE Network members (Maya Martin Cadogan of DC PAVE, Betty Chang of ERS) as well as representatives from a DC LEA and DC government. Soon after this discussion with advocates, the Mayor announced a historic increase of 12.4% to the per-student funding formula, which advocates estimate is very close to the size of the fiscal cliff in DC.

THE POWER OF PIE NETWORK



The PIE Network brings a diversity of leaders together in thoughtful ways. The variety of political ideologies, backgrounds, areas of focus (research, policy and advocacy, funders, organizing), etc. is so helpful for pushing our thinking and work forward.

Maya Martin Cadogan, Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)

For an organization focused on policy advancement such as ourselves, there are few if any other networks out there that provide us with the caliber of connections and resources that PIE Network does to be able to propel our work forward.

Dan Schaller, Colorado League of Charter Schools



THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

PIE NETWORK SITE VISIT CONTINUES TO CATALYZE CONNECTIONS TO ADVANCE COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAYS

In 2023, PIE Network continued to help members prioritize work to improve students' access to high-quality college and career pathways and outcomes. Work in this area is among Network members' top priorities, and 29% of members reported advancing a 2023 policy win in this area in our Annual Member Survey.

Looking ahead to 2024, at least 27 Network members will focus on advancing policies related to college and career pathways, **making it one of the top five policies members will prioritize for the year.**

THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

Local and state advocates report that PIE Network catalyzed collaboration and action to help them ensure students have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in college and careers.

Network members who participated in College & Career Community of Practice site visits reported more than 50 policy wins on college and career pathways in 2022 and 2023.

In 2023, PIE Network continued to host virtual and in-person sessions, provide 1:1 support and consultancies, and convene a College and Career Community of Practice for 64 Network national, state, and local members working across the US. This follows three site visits PIE Network hosted in 2022 in Colorado, Delaware, and New York to see innovative pathway models in action and discuss the policies that allowed these models to flourish.



THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

For example, inspiration from the College and Career site visit helped the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE) launch a coalition-led effort to expand learner pathways in the state. In partnership with a cross-sector coalition, **MASSACHUSETTS** leaders developed a new policy playbook, including a north star goal that 100% of high school students in the state will be on a personalized learner pathway, worked to inform gubernatorial candidates during the 2022 election, and drove a robust legislative agenda in 2023 with significant wins to improve college and career opportunities and success for students.

In **TEXAS**, Educate Texas and The Education Trust in Texas worked to formalize their plans for Outcomes-Based, Student-Centered Community College Finance Reform, which was a finalist for the 2023 Game Changer of the Year Eddies Award. Both organizations leveraged their PIE Network colleagues to informally workshop messaging and help shape how they emphasized workforce and economic development as the centerpiece of their messaging.

And in **KENTUCKY**, after a site visit discussion with students and educators about workforce readiness and a connection to America Succeeds, the Prichard Committee created a new stream of work to focus on the durable, workforce-ready skills students need to succeed. Prichard launched a series of publications designed to provide a comprehensive roadmap for developing durable skills in Kentucky Classroom and hired a full-time staff member to drive this work forward.



*The combination of the site visit to Colorado and meeting Tim Taylor there gave me both the example and strong resources to apply to our work to strengthen the high school diploma in Kentucky. As a result, we've been able to **attract some funding** from interested individuals in the state to get the work rolling and now have a full-time policy director dedicated to meaningful diploma work. **These dots would not have connected with the same impact** if not for the PIE Network site visit.*

Brigitte Blom, Prichard Committee

THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

PIE NETWORK HELPS MEMBERS TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' PROGRESS IN MATH

Given the dismal rates of student achievement in math across the US, PIE Network is supporting members who seek research, ideas, and guidance on how to design and implement policy proposals and advocacy campaigns to improve students' math outcomes.

THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

PIE Network is providing ongoing virtual programming as well as one-on-one support to members on math. The Network assembled a steering committee of advocates actively leading math work in their communities and states to inform Network-wide virtual sessions on math. Members self-titled this group, the "Math Multipliers." The Steering Committee includes National Parents Union, ExcelinEd, A+ Education Partnership, TN State Collaborative on Reforming Education, National Council on Teacher Quality, Collaborative for Student Success, The Oakland REACH, Teach Plus CO, The Education Trust-West, and Educate TX. Sessions covered what current data tells the sector about students' math achievement, what research says about how students learn math, state levers for math success, evidence-based math interventions, and expanded learning time. The Network will continue convening leaders and members and tracking impact on math legislation and programming across the country. Members report that Math Multipliers programming and resources have been beneficial, with several points of emerging collaboration among members.

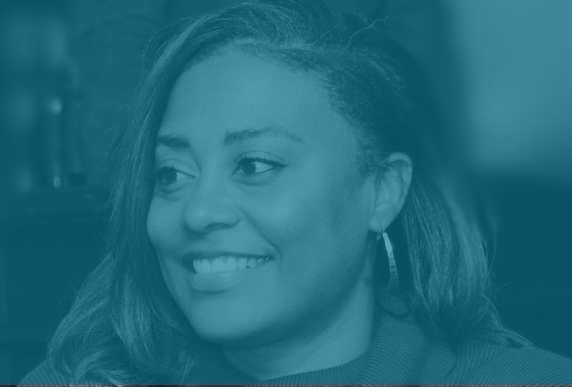
The PIE Network's 2023 Eddies Awards and plenary session featured a coalition of **COLORADO**-based members nominated for Game Changer Campaign of the Year. In 2023, Colorado passed HB23-1231: *Math In Pre-Kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade*. This groundbreaking bipartisan legislation is the first of its kind in the nation, implementing a holistic, all-encompassing approach to addressing the 50,000 Colorado students currently struggling with math. After learning about this work at the PIE Network Summit, the Collaborative for Student Success featured Colorado in a national briefing on Capitol Hill in response to PISA scores.

National Parents Union and Educators for Excellence-New York are working to introduce math legislation in **NEW YORK**. They have consulted with a PIE Network member in Alabama on their bill language, a connection made through Math Multipliers.

EmpowerK12 and Educators for Excellence-New York are both working locally on improving math achievement in their cities. EmpowerK12 connected to national math thought leaders through the PIE Network and will launch a Math Hub in **WASHINGTON, D.C.** Educators for Excellence-New York is creating specific recommendations, written in collaboration with educators for math instruction in New York City Public Schools. The Network is connecting both leaders with advocates doing similar work to provide them feedback on their recommendations.

The Oakland REACH in **CALIFORNIA** is building a cadre of family and community math tutors through their Math Liberator Fellowship. PIE Network has provided one-on-one support to share resources and connections with districts and organizations around the country seeking to learn from or replicated this work focused on math identity, building community math culture, and improving student outcomes.

THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK



2023 EXECUTIVES' MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C. | FEBRUARY 22-24, 2023

The Executives' Meeting is the only meeting each year reserved exclusively for executive leaders at Network member and partner organizations. 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.

“I made a ton of connections to counterparts in other states and definitely feel more connected to PIE Network.”

“The conversation was needed, and it was a relief to know we are all in it together. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening dinner on Thursday and Wednesday —both allowed for new connections and vulnerability.”

“I have some 2024 policy ideas to flesh out post-legislative session. Great new connections too!”



2023 EXECUTIVES' MEETING BY THE NUMBERS

24

states and Washington, D.C. were represented

77

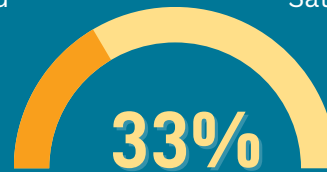
Executive Directors participated

4.8

Average Bottom Line Satisfaction Score out of 5



of Network organizations were represented



of leaders were joining for the first time

THE MULTIPLYING IMPACT OF THE NETWORK

POLICYPORTALS

The Policy Portals, an online space curated by advisory committees of PIE Network members, feature essential and actionable resources to help advocates advance their work. **Anyone who works at a PIE Network member organization can instantly create an account at pie-network.org/register/.**

In fall 2023, the Network launched the first three portals on:

- Assessment & Accountability
- Charter Schools
- Education Finance

Each portal includes videos featuring key leaders in the field sharing history and lessons learned, as well as historical timelines to help understand how policy, politics, and advocacy have evolved over time. The portals also have polling and messaging resources, evidence of impact, trackers of state legislation, 50-state scans, advocacy case studies, model legislation, and more. Each portal will be updated quarterly, and we are raising funds to launch additional portals.

HOW MEMBERS ARE LEVERAGING THE PORTALS

- 1 An onboarding resource to help new team members or partners learn the history and nuance of a policy topic.
- 2 Find polling, messaging, legislation and evidence that can help them advance their policy and advocacy work.
- 3 Learn how their state measures up to others on specific policies.



Leaders from more than two-thirds of member organizations have created an account since launch

4,372

Pageviews on the Policy Portals since launch

10+

Hours of videos on the portals

150+

Resources across policy topics

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING



I have been grateful for PIE Network's Policy Portal on school funding. It's been very helpful for our research and thinking.

Gini Pupo-Walker, The Education Trust in Tennessee



Thank you for doing this!

*Robert Gaines,
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education*

This is SO on time!

The portals have saved our team a ton of time!

You've captured great resources that will be so helpful in onboarding.

CHORDS OF CHANGE 2023 SUMMIT OCT 18-20 NASHVILLE, TN



2023 PIE NETWORK SUMMIT

PIE Network Summit is an invitation-only experience that attracts more than 400 leaders annually, including a high-profile roster of state, local, and national education policy and advocacy leaders. For the second time in the Network's history, the Summit sold out.

*"I found so much of this conference to be useful and applicable in my day-to-day work, and it gave me inspiration for **rethinking about how I approach some of my work**. It is inspiring to **be in a collective where we are in a similar struggle, sharing similar visions, no matter where we are geographically.**"*

*"There's no substitute for this as a networking opportunity... Because PIE Network members together greatly influence state education policy, it also helps to go and **learn what's coming around the bend** so that we can prepare and contribute appropriately, rather than getting blindsided or sidelined."*

Naomi N. Shelton
@NaomiSheltonDC

Nothing like kicking off my first @PIENetwork Summit with an elevator Us-ie — we can photoshop you in, @jenalexander! Great way to start @chartercollab's official membership. #PIESummit23



17TH ANNUAL SUMMIT BY THE NUMBERS

411

Network leaders participated

97

Executive Directors participated

42

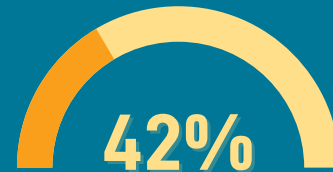
states and Washington, D.C. were represented

4.5

Average Bottom Line Satisfaction Score out of 5



of Network organizations were represented



of leaders were joining for the first time

CHORDS OF CHANGE 2023 SUMMIT OCT 18-20 NASHVILLE, TN



2023 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.



Maya Martin Cadogan
@MMartinCadogan

THIS! I founded @dcpave because parents could & should lead on policy. I've been at Harvard w/ "policy experts" & the parents at PAVE with the same policy access have "transformed" our education system. Thanks @PIENetwork members for recognizing their brilliance & work for kids!



PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education) @dcpave · Oct 20, 2023

Things we learned in our first 7 years that parent leaders remind us of daily: you can have the best policy but without good implementation, kids can't win. Thanks @PIENetwork for recognizing the amazing work PAVE parent leaders have been doing since 2018 on SBMH! #PIESummit23
x.com/PIENetwork/sta...



2023 EDDIES WINNERS

Leading up to Summit, PIE Network members identify nominees and vote on finalists and winners. In 2023, leaders across the country nominated more than 75 powerful policy and advocacy campaigns for Eddies awards. Network members voted for winners in seven categories. Read about nominees and winners on the [PIE Network website](#). At the 2023 PIE Network Summit, we celebrated finalists and announced the winners:

- **GAME CHANGER CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR:** Educators for Excellence–New York| Culturally Relevant Curriculum Campaign: Ensuring Instructional Materials are Grounded in Science of Reading
- **BEST COLLABORATION:** American Federation for Children (AFC), ExcelinEd, Ohio Excels, Thomas B. Fordham Institute–Ohio| Passing a Transformational Budget in Ohio: Investments in Charter Schools, Early Literacy, Vouchers & CTE
- **BEST DEFENSE:** The Oakland REACH | Keep Oakland Kids in School, Parents Say No to an OEA Strike
- **BEST IMPLEMENTATION:** Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)| School-based Mental Health Supports: Parents Ensure Quality and Expansion Remain Top Priority
- **MOST ACTIONABLE RESEARCH:** Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University| ESSER Bunny Saves the Day! A Dashboard with Actual District-by-district Data on Relief Spending
- **POWER TO THE PEOPLE CAMPAIGN:** Education Civil Rights Now| Codifying Quality Public Education as a Civil Right for all Children
- **SUZANNE KUBACH PIE NETWORK WEAVER OF THE YEAR:** Dr. Kymyona Burk| ExcelinEd

SUPPORTING & SUSTAINING LEADERS



CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE WITH NEARLY 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.

The program is among the most intensive and most popular Network offerings. In 2023, PIE Network supported the eighth cohort through their experience. The 28 dynamic leaders in Cohort Eight (self-titled "CohortGr8") bring rich layers of diversity across experience, race, politics, strategy, and stakeholders to this work. They gathered in person for three experiences from January to August and supported each other through virtual consultancies, leadership transitions, advocacy campaigns, and more.

Cohort Eight now joins nearly 200 Leadership Institute 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.

“The connections I have made through Leadership Institute have been invaluable. I have a built in network within the Network to bounce ideas off of, problem-solve, or commiserate with :) when the work gets hard. I had a specific skill/confidence gap in fundraising, and the tips, advice, and connections that I made through my cohort really gave me a confidence boost.”



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE BY THE NUMBERS

184

Total Alumni

70+

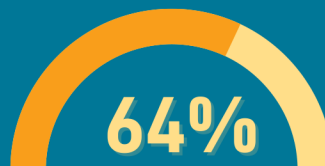
Hours of Professional Development Per Cohort

2

Alums Serving as Current or Former State Ed Chiefs

3

Alums Worked in Presidential Administration after Experience



Alums Still Leading at a Network Member Organization

1

Alums Serving as State Legislator

SUPPORTING & SUSTAINING LEADERS



Demand for the program remains incredibly high. We will accept applications for and launch Cohort Nine of Leadership Institute in spring 2024. The alumni community also remains strong. More than 75 alumni joined the Leadership Institute reunion at PIE Network Summit in October 2023. We look forward to convening alumni again at the 2024 Summit.

“The Leadership Institute was transformative! I found joy, connections, friendships, and peace that I desperately needed.”

“This has motivated me to be a better leader. I have learned so much from every cohort member. I admire them all so much and I am immensely grateful to PIE for bringing this group of people together. I couldn't love cohort gr8 anymore!”



“It's rare in our field to get the opportunity to really turn inward and develop our own skills, as well as our networks. The PIE Network team does such a great job of supporting this group of folks with caring and intentionality. It takes a ton of work and I really appreciate it.”

*“So many connections! I loved that everyone in the group came away as friends and we used the foundation of getting to know each other as people to turn that into professional collaborations. All the people in our group are people I look up to and I loved listening to how they handle and navigate situations that I deal with was so valuable. **I really feel like a better leader after these meetings** and will use the Network to continue that journey.”*



MEMBER WINS & PRIORITIES

MEMBERS SHARE POLICY & ADVOCACY WINS FROM 2023

In the Network’s Annual Member Survey, members reported the most wins on Education Funding, College and Career Pathways, and Charter Funding and Expansion.

These hard-fought wins represent significant work for Network advocates and include policies to:

- **Replace outdated state education funding formulas** to ensure resources are allocated more equitably to students with the greatest learning needs and/or advocate for more dollars
- **Expand student opportunities for success after high school through college and career pathways programs**, work-based learning experiences, and partnerships with businesses;
- **Ensure every student and family has access to quality education options** that will best meet their needs by advocating for public charter school funding and expansion;
- **Protect the critical collection of data on student learning progress and equity** via state assessments, ensure transparency around these results, and resume accountability systems
- **Follow the science of reading instruction** by ensuring educators get the research-proven training and high-quality instructional materials needed to effectively teach students to read;
- **Diversify and expand the teacher workforce**, including through alternative certification;
- **Provide greater support to fund of charter school facilities**, so that charter schools’ operating budgets can focus on student learning;
- **Influence decisions about spending the massive influx of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds**, including by engaging students and families in decisions and making information about spending accessible and transparent;
- **Create systemic supports for students’ mental health and well-being**
- **Ensure that educator candidates are well-prepared**, including creating scholarships for student teachers and pathways for high school students to see themselves as future classroom leaders.

% of Network members who reported advances on specific topics in 2023



These policy areas match Network members’ top priorities in recent years and topics where PIE Network has created significant programming.

Policy Pillar	Advocacy & Policy Area Wins in 2023	% of Network
Responsive Systems	Education Funding	28.7%
Responsive Systems	College & Career Pathways	28.7%
Innovative Options	Charter Funding & Expansion	24.3%
High Expectations	Assessments & Accountability	22.6%
High Expectations	Science of Reading or Literacy	19.1%
Great Educators	Educator Diversity	17.4%
Innovative Options	Charter Facilities Funding	15.7%
Responsive Systems	Pandemic Recovery Efforts & Implementation of ESSER Funds	14.8%
Responsive Systems	Student Well-Being & Mental Health	13%
Great Educators	Educator Preparation	12.2%



MEMBER WINS & PRIORITIES

TOP TEN PRIORITIES FOR 2024, NAMED BY ADVOCATES

Looking ahead to the 2024 legislative sessions, Network members continue to advance student-centered policies to meet the urgent needs of the moment and transform education long-term.

- **Assessments and Accountability:** ensuring that consistent and reliable data is collected on student achievement and communicated transparently for all stakeholders;
- **Science of Reading or Literacy:** giving educators the training, quality instructional materials, and resources needed to effectively teach all students to read;
- **Education Funding:** reimagining outdated funding models to be more equitable and effective for every student;
- **Educator Diversity:** strengthening the teaching profession by expanding the pipeline to better support teacher candidates of color;
- **Charter School Funding and Expansion:** fighting for equitable funding for charter schools and expanding access to high-quality charter schools for all students;
- **College and Career Pathways:** creating partnerships between state agencies, higher education, and industry leaders to provide students with greater access to career pathways, more opportunities for work-based learning, and post-secondary education and/or work-based credentials;
- **Innovative Staffing Models:** re-imagining teacher's roles and how schools distribute teachers to better serve students and make the teaching role more attractive, effective, and sustainable;
- **Education Savings Accounts, Vouchers, and Private School Choice:** expanding access to school choice in all forms for all students;
- **Educator Preparation:** investing in innovative programs and supports to make the teaching profession more accessible and ensure that educator preparation programs effectively prepare educator candidates;
- **Pandemic Recovery Efforts and Implementation of ESSER Funds:** ensuring that students have access to high-quality tutoring and that schools focus on learning acceleration.

We also continue to support members around emerging priorities, like math. We featured the above topics throughout 2023 programming, including in person at the Executives' Meeting, the PIE Network Summit, during virtual programming and through the Network's annual Eddies awards, designed to feature dynamic and replicable advocacy and policy campaigns. We also convene smaller learning communities, provide one-to-one support to members, and, when possible, we also support this work through our Policy Portals.

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.

In fall 2023, we welcomed two new Board members: Chad Aldis, Thomas B. Fordham Institute–Ohio and Tequilla Brownie, TNTP and in December 2023, we thanked Rachel Canter, Mississippi First, for her six years of service on the PIE Network Board.



Chad Aldis
Thomas B. Fordham Institute-Ohio



David Mansouri, Treasurer
Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE)



Denise Forte
The Education Trust



Derrell Bradford, Secretary
50CAN



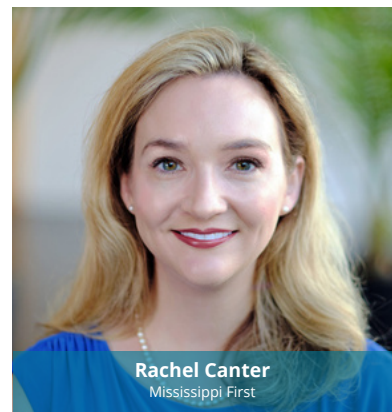
Evan Stone, Chair
Educators for Excellence



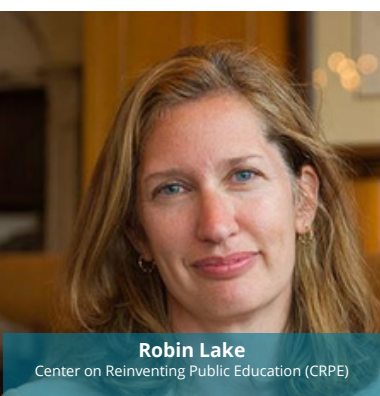
Maya Martin Cadogan, Vice Chair
Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)



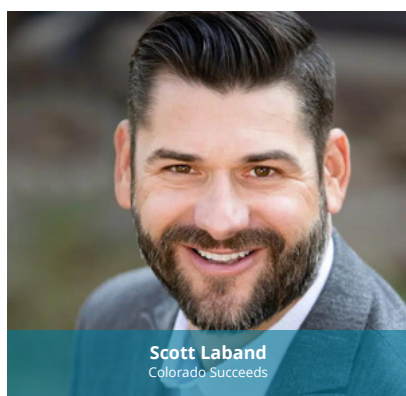
Nina Rees



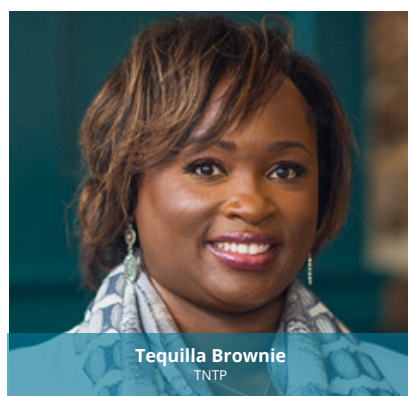
Rachel Canter
Mississippi First



Robin Lake
Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE)



Scott Laband
Colorado Succeeds



Tequilla Brownie
TNTP



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](#).



Anna McDaniel-Wyatt
Analyst, Communications & Member Engagement



Ashley Schmidt
Managing Director, Communications & Member Engagement



Brian Gilson
Chief of Staff



Chadani Wiersba
Events & Operations Coordinator



Courtney Criswell
Vice President, Policy & Programs



Elissa Rabin
Policy Analyst



Eric Eagon
Senior Director, Policy & Program



Jen Alexander
Executive Director



Marques Whitmire
Vice President, Finance & Operations



Patrick Sims
Senior Director, Policy & Program

FINANCIALS

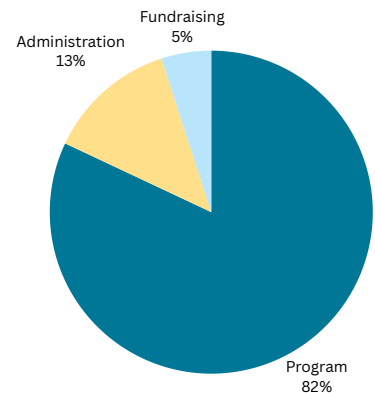
2023 YEAR END

PIE Network has achieved clean audit results each year of operation and hopes to continue that tradition in 2023 as our annual financial audit is in progress. The Network also continues to earn a perfect score on Charity Navigator's Finance & Accountability metric.

Below is a summary of our 2023 Financials (audit pending). Additional financial information is available upon request. Reach out to marques@pie-network.org for more details.

- 2023 Unrestricted Revenue: \$438,197
- 2023 Releases of prior year revenue: \$3,187,500
- 2023 Expenses: \$3,404,677

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



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

PIE NETWORK FUNDERS

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Carnegie CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

CHARLES AND LYNN SCHUSTERMAN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES

RAIKES FOUNDATION

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2023 SUMMIT SPONSORS

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THE HASLAM³ FOUNDATION DEE AND JIMMY HASLAM

HYDE FAMILY FOUNDATION

Joe C. Davis FOUNDATION

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE AWARENESS FOUNDATION

New Meridian

nwea

SCARLETT FAMILY FOUNDATION

Stand Together Trust.



DONATE

Reach out to jennifer@pie-network.org for more details on how to support the Network.

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JOIN THE NETWORK

Share your interest on our website.

SECTOR JOBS

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