



TRANSITION POINTS

The Education Strategy Group Newsletter

NEW: Communications Toolkit to Engage Families on Student Pathways

Navigating pathways through high school, higher education and training, and into the workforce can be overwhelming for students and families. Families need to be engaged early and often to ensure they have the resources and support they need to make informed decisions. But as the economy has shifted—including dramatic changes induced by the pandemic—many school and district leaders report lacking the concrete resources they need to communicate with families about shifts in the labor market and the different pathways students can pursue to find success in today’s economic reality.



ESG is excited to release **a new toolkit** to help districts, schools, and other leaders who support a student’s educational journey effectively communicate with families about today’s economy and the different paths to success. These ready-to-use resources include key messages, graphics, printable materials, customizable pieces, and more from which communicators can build and execute their own contextualized communications plan. Check out the full suite of resources [here](#).

If you are a leader who would like additional support in using these materials to craft a family communications and engagement strategy, please contact Kelly Van Beveren at kvanbeveren@edstrategy.org.

In addition, several of our partners have also recently released new resources that offer insights into what families need to know and how to best offer support to them.

Carnegie Forum: Elevating Family-School Partnerships: The Carnegie Corporation of New York recently hosted a discussion with national education and parent leaders on how federal recovery funds can be used effectively to strengthen and reimagine the home-school connection. Watch a recording of the conversation [here](#).

Pathways Matter to Families: ExcelInEd published two new resources offering research-based insights and actionable resources for those most impacted by pathway opportunities and decisions: students and families. *Pathways Matter to Families* is intended to inform state policymakers and education leaders how they can develop comprehensive policies and resources that can empower students and families to successfully navigate available pathways. *Your Child’s Pathway Matters* is designed to help parents and families identify the information, questions and support they can use to ensure their child is on a fulfilling education-to-career pathway.

Making the Connection: Aligned Advising to Improve Postsecondary Access and Success



ESG recently launched [*Making the Connection: Aligned Advising to Improve Postsecondary Access and Success*](#), a new microsite that makes the case for prioritizing alignment of advising across K-12 and higher education, offers a vision for achieving that alignment, and lays out concrete action steps and resources for the many stakeholders who have a role to play. This is a critical moment—particularly

considering the availability of [American Rescue Plan funds](#)—for leaders across the education spectrum to ensure that high-quality, aligned advising is an expectation for every student, not enrichment for some.

In addition to the suite of resources on the microsite, ESG has also recently co-authored a [blog post](#) on Education Commission of the States' EdNote blog about the specific role that states can play in setting the right tone and conditions for improving aligned advising. Check it out to learn how Colorado has been a leader in opening doors for students through better advising practices.

New ESG Blog Spotlight: The Christensen Institute's Work on Social Capital

Doors to opportunity are not opened solely by students' academic experiences or success. Social capital—benefits and opportunities derived from networks and connections—matters tremendously for success in postsecondary education and training and beyond. To understand more about the importance of social capital and ways to support students in building and leveraging it, ESG spoke with Julia Freeland Fisher, Director of Education at the Clayton Christensen Institute, which recently released a new [playbook](#) on building and strengthening students' networks to help them thrive. Check out the full interview with Julia [on our blog](#).

Spotlight: Chicago's Use of Federal Funds to Get Students Back on Track

The pandemic has had a devastating impact on the postsecondary plans of millions of students, with particularly strong effects felt by students of color and those from low-income families. Yet [an early look](#) at districts' spending plans for their American Rescue Plan funds shows that only 12 percent of plans released so far include specific investments in postsecondary pathways. To get students on track for long-term economic opportunity and mobility, district leaders cannot afford to miss the opportunity for significant, game-changing postsecondary pathways investments presented by the stimulus.



Some districts are leading the way in this area. Chicago Public Schools, for example, recently announced the launch of its new [Moving Forward Together initiative](#), a \$525 million investment of federal funds over FY 2022 and FY2023 to support student success coming out of the pandemic. Among the many components of the initiative, district leaders are focusing on targeted interventions for nearly 85,000 students identified as needing the most intensive support, including

enrollment in credit recovery and bridge classes to ensure their high school graduation and postsecondary transition plans can get back on track. Learn more about CPS' plan [here](#).

ESG Highlights: Meet Our Newest Team Members

ESG is thrilled to have recently welcomed several new staff members! Get to know two of them below.



Briana Falduti, Associate

Briana Falduti joined ESG in 2021 to support the postsecondary transitions portfolio. Prior to joining ESG, she served as a graduate research assistant in the Office of Policy and Strategy at the Tennessee Board of Regents. Before graduate school, she served as the Post-Secondary Success Specialist for Greater Than, an education nonprofit in Portland, OR that serves students pre-K through college and career. In this role, Briana oversaw all postsecondary initiatives throughout the spectrum – from educating parents about postsecondary options to helping students design a postsecondary plan and developing support programs to help students transition to and succeed in higher education. Briana also served two terms of AmeriCorps with College Possible, where she coached students through the college admission process. [Learn more about Briana.](#)



Eric Cherrie, Associate

Eric joined ESG to support the organization's work on postsecondary attainment. He previously worked as the Manager of Strategy and Impact for the Cowen Institute at Tulane University, where his work focused on the design, implementation, and growth of strategic initiatives to improve educational and employment outcomes for young people in New Orleans. In an earlier role there, he coordinated a collaborative focused on reconnecting opportunity youth. He also served two years with AmeriCorps, working on dropout prevention, college access, and career readiness. [Learn more about Eric.](#)

Join Our Team

ESG is hiring! We are looking for a Director of District Strategy & Support to play a lead role in developing and managing the firm's overall strategy for K-12 school district engagement, with a specific focus on growing ESG's postsecondary transitions and pathways support to communities across the country. Learn more and apply for the position [here](#).



Education Strategy Group (ESG) works with America's education, business, and civic leaders to expand economic opportunity and mobility by increasing educational attainment. We are driven by the conviction that a robust education system aligned with workforce demands leads to a stronger, more equitable society.

[Contact us](#) to learn more and work together