



## Senate Education Committee Votes to Recommend DeVos as Education Secretary

This afternoon, the Senate education committee split along party lines, but voted to endorse Betsy DeVos as the nation's next secretary of education. The final step in the process will be a confirmation vote in the full Senate that has yet to be scheduled. "Federal Flash," the Alliance's five-minute video series on education policy in Washington, DC, will provide further details later this week.



## How Three School Systems Are Improving Student Achievement Using the OECD Test for Schools

The Alliance for Excellent Education and the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy released a new case study today on how three school systems are using an assessment developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to monitor students' academic outcomes and inform shifts in policy and teacher practice to meet students' learning needs.

Superintendents, principals, and teachers can look to the case study to learn how Gwinnett County Public Schools in Georgia; Granger Independent School District in Texas; and University Academy charter school in Kansas City, Missouri used the OECD Test for Schools. The case study explores their reasons for introducing the OECD Test for Schools; the process of implementing it; the benefits for students, teachers, and administrators; and the next steps that the school systems are taking.

[Read the Case Study](#)

Watch the study come to life in a webinar as two of the school leaders featured discuss how they used the assessment to drive improvement.

[Watch the webinar](#)

[Click to Tweet:](#) .@All4Ed case study examines how three school systems use @OECDeduskills Test for Schools for improvement #OECDPISA



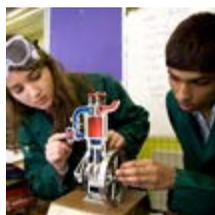
## Alliance for Excellent Education Recognized as Leader in Linked Learning Movement

The Alliance for Excellent Education was recognized for its work to expand quality Linked Learning opportunities for students in California and across the nation. Linked Learning is a

comprehensive educational approach that integrates work-based learning with rigorous academics, high-quality career and technical education, and student support. Alliance President Bob Wise was named the 2017 Linked Learning Policymaker Champion Award by the Linked Learning Alliance.

[Read More](#)

[Click to Tweet:](#) .@All4Ed Recognized as Leader in #LinkedLearning Movement bit.ly/2jcV4KD



## STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESSES: Early College High School Programs and Apprenticeships Take Center Stage

Early college high school, apprenticeships, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education take center stage as governors continue to give state of the state addresses.

[Read More](#)

[Click to Tweet:](#) Early College #HighSchool Programs and #Apprenticeships Take Center Stage in #StateofState Addresses bit.ly/2jMdW1M

## New Video



## College and Career Readiness Through the Linked Learning Approach: Paola's Story

Discover how Linked Learning is changing lives and improving educational outcomes for students at Los Angeles Unified School District in this short video by the Alliance. It tells the story of Paola, a first-generation college student, and how her mentorship in high school helped to prepare her for college and a career.

[Watch the Video](#)

## Coming Soon

### Future Ready Librarians: What's Not to Love?

**TUESDAY**  
**FEB 14, 2017**  
**4:00- 5:00 P.M.**  
**(EST)**

Join Future Ready Schools® (FRS) for a webinar that introduces viewers to the Future Ready Librarians (FRL) program and how savvy information and technology professionals can support FRS. The FRL program makes a difference within schools and education by supporting and leading FRS's goals through professional practice, programs, and spaces.

[Register for the webinar](#)



## Digital Learning Day 2017: #DLDay Map is Starting to Fill Up!

Digital Learning Day 2017 is less than one month away and our Digital Learning Day map is starting to fill up! On February 23, 2017, teachers and students from around the country will participate in the nationwide celebration highlighting great teaching and demonstrating how technology can improve student outcomes. If you're planning to participate, add your event to our map!

[Add your event](#)

## In Case You Missed It



## Federal Flash: How Have President Trump's Executive Orders Affected Education?

Last week, Donald Trump became the forty-fifth president of the United States. This week's Federal Flash examines how the change in power has affected the implementation timeline for the Every Student Succeeds Act. It also examines the delayed vote to confirm Betsy DeVos as the next U.S. Secretary of Education.

[Watch the Video](#)

### Tom Murray Honored as Thought Leader of the Year

PR with Panache!, modern-day storytellers for the education marketplace, named Tom Murray, director of innovation for Future Ready Schools, a project of the Alliance for Excellent Education, as the 2017 Thought Leader of the Year. Murray was honored for his "extraordinary dedication to connecting teachers and students through technology."

[Read more in District Administration](#)

### Alliance in the News

*EdTech Magazine* includes the Data and Privacy Dashboard of the Future Ready Schools Framework created by the Alliance for Excellent Education as one guide for districts as they work to maintain information security.

[Check out the full article](#)

States are stepping up to help districts with education technology, writes Michele Molnar in *Education Week's* Market Brief. But schools also need to understand the power of negotiating prices, price transparency, shared purchasing, and utilization, she writes, sharing advice from the Alliance's Tom Murray on how schools "Get the most bang for the buck?"

[Read more](#)

### New Face at the Alliance

#### Nikki McKinney

Director of Policy Development and Federal Government Relations

Nikki McKinney joined the Alliance in January 2017 as director of policy development and federal government relations. In this role, she promotes the Alliance's™ priorities before policymakers on Capitol Hill and in the U.S. Department of Education. Before coming to the Alliance, Ms. McKinney served as deputy assistant secretary for congressional affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). While there, she worked on issues related to the employment of school-aged youth, including children of immigrants, programs designed to address the educational and workforce needs of court-involved juveniles, and expanding the number of apprenticeship opportunities.

Prior to joining DOL, Ms. McKinney worked as a legislative assistant for Senator Susan M. Collins. She is a teacher by training, having taught high school social studies in public schools in Delaware and Virginia. Ms. McKinney earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science education from the University of Delaware and a master of arts degree in education policy studies from the George Washington University.

#### Nils Franco

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Nils Franco joined the Alliance in January 2017 as a policy and advocacy intern. Mr. Franco studies economics as a third-year student at American University. Prior to joining the Alliance, Mr. Franco served as a policy fellow at the Campaign for Youth Justice, where he also executed legal and statistical research projects, supported grant-seeking efforts, and wrote about the effect of high school graduation on public safety and social opportunity. Mr. Franco is an alum of the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute

and serves as finance director of the School of Public Affairs Leadership Program at American University.

## Jessica B. Pedraza

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Jessica Pedraza joined the Alliance in January 2017 as a policy and advocacy intern. A fifth-year undergraduate student studying social policy and public service with a concentration in education at University of California, Irvine (UCI), Ms. Pedraza has previous experience with the Upward Bound Math and Science Program, Jumpstart at UCI, Samueli Academy, and Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic School. Additionally, her research experience lies in college readiness, college knowledge, and academic decisionmaking for Latino youth.

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**Hilary McLean**  
@HilaryMcLean7

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Congrats and thanks Policy Champion @BobWise48 4 building knowledge re #LinkedLearning in DC leading to better fed ed policy #LLCON2017

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**Eric Sheninger**   
@E\_Sheninger

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At the end of the day we need to focus on student outcomes aligned to brain science when it comes to #edtech via @margo\_day #FETCsummit

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