



Policy Best Practices

General Policy Changes and Best Practices

- **Policy Inventory Audit:** This involves reviewing and assessing the various policies and procedures that govern the school's operations, ensuring the relevancy, compliance and equity within them. [Essential Policies in K-12 Schools](#).
- **Socioeconomic-Based School Assignment:** In some regions, school districts have implemented policies that consider socioeconomic factors in student assignment to schools. By doing so, they aim to create more socioeconomically diverse student bodies, reducing concentrations of poverty in certain schools and promoting educational equity. Although in Colorado, most districts have school choice, which limits access to higher-tiered schools based on constraints such as transportation. Policies related to inequitable practices that hinder school choice should be understood and evaluated. [Discussion Article on Tackling Access Issues with School Choice](#).
- **Culturally Responsive Curriculum:** School districts have adopted curricula that reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences of their students. Culturally responsive teaching materials and practices help students see themselves represented in their education and build a more inclusive learning environment. [Culturally Responsive Resources](#).
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum:** Schools have integrated SEL curriculum into their education programs to help students develop social and emotional skills, self-regulation and empathy. These skills can support students in managing their behavior and developing healthier relationships with peers and educators. [SEL Resources](#).
- **Landscape of Wellbeing and Belonging:** This website is for educators, administrators, and other education professionals who are interested in increasing wellbeing and belonging in their schools. The goal of the Landscape project is to blend guidance, resources, systems, and best practices to improve outcomes for students, staff, and families across all PK-12 schools in Colorado. The five features serve as the foundational and INTERCONNECTED components of all efforts in schools seeking to make improvements in wellbeing and belonging. The five features represent what's necessary to successfully navigate the complex landscape related to health, safety, and prevention in Colorado Schools.

Teacher Recruitment Best Practices

- **Recruitment and Retention Incentives:** Schools can create incentives to attract qualified teachers, such as offering signing bonuses, providing student-loan forgiveness programs, creating more balanced scheduling shifts or offering competitive salaries and benefits. [Examples of Teacher Incentives](#).
- **Grow-Your-Own Programs:** Schools can establish partnerships with local colleges and universities to develop "grow-your-own" teacher programs, encouraging promising students from the community to pursue teaching careers and return to the school as educators.
 - [Example of First Generation and Rural Community Recruitment Pipeline to encourage students of color and first generation students to pursue teaching in rural communities \(UC Denver partnership with Denver Public Schools\)](#).
 - [Example of Teacher Pipeline Program stemming for Para-Educators](#).