Hope Street Group & Teacher Evaluation Reform

Overview
Hope Street Group is a national nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for all Americans. Our approach is simple: bring new voices to the public policy process in innovative ways in order to develop solutions to pressing national problems.

Policy 2.0: Applying Web 2.0 Principles to Policy Development
By connecting practitioners and policymakers in innovative ways, Hope Street Group is helping to generate new ideas and new voices for solving old problems. One of Hope Street Group’s innovations is our custom online platform, which uses web 2.0 technologies including open-source information sharing, dynamic online interaction, and social networking to bring practitioners and policy leaders together to create and implement solutions to pressing problems.

Hope Street Group’s Policy 2.0 web platform provides an engaging online workspace for reform-minded teachers and school leaders. Using this virtual work environment, where barriers to participation are low, stakeholders can engage in dynamic and meaningful conversations about reforms to state and national policy that will improve teacher effectiveness in the classroom.

Building Teacher Engagement in Delaware and Tennessee
At the invitation of Delaware and Tennessee’s Race to the Top teams, Hope Street Group is currently working alongside teachers and leaders in both states to drive evaluation reform efforts. We are focused on teacher engagement and are expanding opportunities for teachers across both states to participate in the Race to the Top implementation process. In Delaware, Hope Street Group has participated in a series of Race to the Top kick-off meetings with over 500 teachers who are actively helping reform Delaware’s teacher evaluation system. Following the in-person meetings, these 500+ teachers have been divided into 24 working groups and they are using Hope Street Group’s online platform to collaborate and develop recommendations for addressing key teacher evaluation issues, such as how to determine growth in untested grades and subjects. Over 200 teachers and school leaders from Tennessee participated in the initial Race to the Top Educator Outreach Summit, which Hope Street Group helped facilitate. These teachers and school leaders are in the process of being added to a similar custom online workspace on Hope Street Group’s platform so that they can continue to contribute to the creation of Tennessee’s new evaluation system. Hope Street Group will offer Round 2 Race to the Top winners similar custom private workspaces.

Interactive, Useful Products for Policy Leaders
Teacher Evaluation Reform Playbook.
Using innovative technology and open source collaboration, Hope Street Group is working with leading school districts from across the country and the states that won Round I of Race to the Top to analyze and synthesize how teacher evaluation reforms are being developed and executed so that the work of these leaders can serve as a catalyst for positive change in teacher evaluation systems across the country.

Virtual Teachers’ Lounge/Knowledge Hub.
This Fall, Hope Street Group will launch a dynamic online portal to engage teachers and school leaders in interactive reviews of recent reports, research, and news items on teacher evaluation in a way that will provide state and national policymakers with insights into on-the-ground impact of findings.

National Teacher Network. While Hope Street Group currently works primarily with teachers in Delaware and Tennessee, we are also connecting reform-minded practitioners from states and districts on the cutting edge of teacher evaluation reform to each other in a way that will allow them to have a meaningful voice in the national education policy debate.
Fostering Bipartisan, Cross-State Collaboration

In July, Hope Street Group, WestEd, the Aspen Institute’s Proof Points Project, and the Rodel Foundation brought together leaders from Delaware and Tennessee for a collaborative all-day working group meeting of leaders, including teachers, who have been instrumental in developing and implementing district-level teacher evaluation reforms in Denver, Colorado; Hillsborough County, Florida; New Haven, Connecticut; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. This meeting provided Delaware and Tennessee’s Race to the Top teams with an opportunity to learn from the experiences of districts on the forefront of teacher evaluation reform efforts.

Hope Street Group: A Strong Teacher Evaluation Reform Partner for your State

Hope Street Group is a strong strategic partner in developing and implementing teacher evaluation systems with meaningful buy-in from teachers and other stakeholders. Hope Street Group’s online platform for engagement and its access to researchers, thought leaders, teachers, and policymakers make it an ideal partner for states, districts, or consortia who aim to or are in the process of creating cutting-edge, effective teacher evaluation policies and practices that will lead to improved teaching and learning.

Partnership Principles

Hope Street Group is committed to the following principles and works with partners who share these values:

- Student achievement must be a core factor in any teacher evaluation system, counting for at least 50% of the evaluation.
- Teachers must be part of the process from conception to implementation.
- No one gets everything right the first time -- research and practice should be applied to teacher evaluation systems in real time to ensure continuous improvement.
- Lessons learned from the creation and implementation of newly formed or improved teacher evaluation systems should be shared publicly and purposefully to drive change and encourage more districts to take informed action to improve teacher evaluation systems in every state and district nationwide.

Available Assets

Hope Street Group is a strategic, engaged partner that will work with you from conception to implementation to help you meet your goals. Hope Street Group brings unique assets to the table to create a robust partnership that improves the processes, policies, and outcomes leading to high-quality, effective teacher evaluation systems.

- Online engagement of teachers and other stakeholders through Hope Street Group’s revolutionary virtual policy development and outreach system.
- High-quality, informed online or in-person facilitation of conversations that lead to consensus.
- Access to national policymakers, researchers, thought leaders, and practitioners to help inform, educate, and catalyze discussion, policy, and consensus-building.
- Ability to convene and manage local working groups in specific content areas to help move ideas to policy and practice.

Hope Street Group grew out of a series of meetings (on Los Angeles’ Hope Street) in 2005. These meeting were comprised of professionals and entrepreneurs from the political spectrum who were concerned about our long-term economic trajectory and declining national competitiveness. They saw the system as inherently broken, favoring politically expedient solutions over real and sustainable reform, and concluded that nothing short of redefining how Americans think about and participate in policy creation would be necessary to change the country’s economic course.
Hope Street Group's Education Braintrust

Russlynn Ali | Assistant Secretary of Education; Founding Director, Education Trust-West
Byron Auguste | Director, McKinsey & Company; Chairman, Hope Street Group
Sir Michael Barber | Partner, McKinsey & Co.; Founder, No. 10 Downing Street Delivery Unit for Public Services; Advisor to former Prime Minister Tony Blair
Mayor Corey Booker | Mayor of Newark, New Jersey
Paul Brest | President, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Mike Cohen | President, Achieve, Inc.
John Deasy | Deputy Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District
Jean Desravines | Chief Officer, Cities and Policy, New Leaders for New Schools
Barrett Duke | Vice President for Research and Director of the Research Institute of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention
Secretary Arne Duncan | Secretary of Education
David Fisher | Chairman, Capital Group
Greg Galle | Co-Founder & Managing Director, C2
Deborah Gist | Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Rhode Island
Allan Golston | President, U.S. Programs, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Senator Lindsey Graham | South Carolina
Representative Kay Granger | Texas
Paul Herdman | CEO, Rodel Foundation
Mayor John Hickenlooper | Mayor of Denver, Colorado
Bobbi Ciriza Houtchens | Teaching Ambassador Fellow, US Department of Education, and English as a Second Language Teacher
Brad Jupp | Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
Charles Kolb | President, Committee for Economic Development
Wendy Kopp | Founder and President, Teach for America
Marc Lampkin | Executive Director, Strong American Schools
Daniel Leeds | CEO, Fulcrum Investments
Governor Jack Markell | Governor of Delaware
Tim McEwen | CEO, Study Island
Dmitri Mehlhorn | Managing Director, New Markets, Gerson Lehrman Group
Ken Mehlman | Managing Director, Global Public Affairs, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts
Ted Meisel | Senior Advisor, Elevation Partners; Former CEO, Overture
Janet Murgula | President, National Council of La Raza
Tyler Nottberg | Chairman & CEO, US Engineering Company
Bill Novelli | President, American Association of Retired Persons
John Podesta | CEO, Center for American Progress
Governor Roy Romer | Former Governor of Colorado; Senior Advisor, The College Board
Jon Schnur | CEO and Co-Founder, New Leaders for New Schools
Jim Shelton | Assistant Deputy Secretary of Education
Andy Slavitt | CEO, Ingenix
Secretary Margaret Spellings | Former Secretary of Education (2005-2008)
Senator Debbie Stabenow | Michigan
Andy Stern | President, Service Employees International Union
Governor Bob Wise | President, Alliance for Excellent Education; Former West Virginia Governor

These leaders have participated in Hope Street Group’s Colloquia, Bipartisan Working Group Dinners, or Teacher Evaluation Working Group and many have contributed to Hope Street Group’s education agenda.