

From: Ryan Mahoney <Ryan@ExcelinEd.org>
To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
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Subject: #AskExcelinEd: Why I'm grateful for A-F School Grading

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Summer Learning Series

Welcome to the #AskExcelinEd Summer Learning Series. Follow along as the ExcelinEd team shares what they are learning over the summer. And remember to join us on social media to ask your burning policy questions. Enjoy!

Meet Ryan Mahoney

Regional Advocacy Director for the Southeast

I have a lot of respect for former educators who use their classroom experience to take up the cause of reform. Their ground-level insights are incredibly helpful in understanding how the policies we promote impact actual students, teachers and parents. Education reform also needs those of us who've been steeped in the Three Ps—politics, policy and the press—long before we were asked, for example, to weigh in on the benefits of a complex personalized learning bill at a committee hearing. In my work with ExcelinEd, I'm grateful for the opportunity to help every student achieve their full potential.

I Prefer...

Print Book over E-Book

Phone Call over Text

Traditional Watch over Smart Watch

Coffee over Tea

My Favorite Quotes

- "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire" — William Butler Yeats
- "Where any answer is possible, all answers are meaningless." — Isaac Asimov
- "A witty saying proves nothing." — Voltaire

Thought Starter

State Spotlight: Georgia

Georgia's [A-F school grading web site](#) is one of the best around. And I'm not just saying that because it's a great example of [Excel //Ed's report card design principles](#) in action. I can also vouch for it personally. My wife and I used it—together with our own due diligence—to help decide where our daughter would attend kindergarten. (We chose our local public school.)

Excel //Ed Resource Highlight

Poll after poll has found that the vast majority of people agree we should be funding our schools with student success in mind. In other words, allocating funds based on the unique needs of the students in each school and spending them in ways that ensure those students are learning what they need to know in each subject and graduate ready for college and careers. But instead, most states just automatically shell out cash for X number of textbooks and Y number of buses because, hey, that's the way they've always done it.

My colleague Matthew Joseph recently released a fantastic set of [resources for policymakers interested in moving to a more student-centered funding approach](#)—including a handy modeling tool that shows exactly what this could look like in practice in any given state. Check it out!

The Foundation for Excellence in Education (Excel//Ed) is a national leader in education reform. Excel//Ed is a hands-on, how-to policy and advocacy organization that designs and promotes model legislation and supports states with technical expertise, policy development and implementation strategies and public outreach.

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