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**Subject:** #AskExcelinEd: What inspires me to work for students

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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!

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### Meet Ashley DeMauro Mullins

*Northeast Regional Advocacy Director*

Based in Pennsylvania, I have the awesome opportunity to work with policymakers and partners across the Northeast on student-centered policies. I am a former legislative and agency staffer who believes education policy is the most important matter in which we can find ourselves engaged. The resources included here are just a fraction of what inspires me to do this work!

I Prefer...

Print Book over  
E-Book

Text over Phone  
Call

Smart Watch  
over Traditional  
Watch

Tea over Coffee

Research I'm  
Reading

Exploring New  
Hampshire's  
Private Education  
Sector  
*- from EdChoice*

## My Twitter Favorites

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@ExcelinEd

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### What Inspires Me

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At last year's National Summit on Education Reform, I was incredibly inspired by a [panel of parents and students](#) who discussed their experiences trying to find the right educational fit. ([Registration](#) just opened for this year's National Summit!)

Every child should have the opportunity to find the right educational experience, and this panel discussion reaffirmed that belief for me. This inspires me to not only focus on policies that provide kids with these opportunities, but also those that will ensure all schools are providing every student with access to an excellent education.

### State Spotlight: Pennsylvania

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Pennsylvania's [Educational Improvement Tax Credit](#) (EITC) program provides tax credit-funded scholarships to kids who desire educational options. In existence since 2001, the EITC now serves over 30,000 students annually. This year, the program saw an increase of \$25 million in the state budget and we estimate nearly *15,000 more kids* will receive the opportunity to attend the school of their choice.

## Looking Ahead: College & Career Pathways

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I am excited to see more states tackling college and career pathways policies so that students are better prepared for higher education or the workplace. Our partners at the [Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education](#) are launching their Credentials for Success initiative with the goal of incentivizing schools to provide kids with the opportunity to receive industry-recognized credentials and set them on a path towards success.

## Excel // Ed Resource Highlight

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With a focus on increasing career readiness in so many states, I have been reading and promoting our new Career and Technical Education (CTE) playbooks. College and career pathways policies open up doors for students. We know that that kids who have access to advanced coursework and the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials are more likely to succeed in the workplace or in higher education, and our economy will be even stronger as students are better prepared to meet the needs of industry.

Check out the first two playbooks, and stay tuned for new releases in the series!

- [Playbook 1: Putting Career and Technical Education to Work for Students](#)
- [Playbook 2: Building Cross-Sector Partnerships to Support Career and Technical Education Pathways](#)

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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