



# Education Innovation

## Discussion Guide

### Let's review

*At the start of each discussion, review the conversation ground rules for returning and new members alike to set the stage for active participation by all. You may want to use a timer as you go around the room.*

*And don't forget to decide who will take notes and post a discussion recap.*

- **Be open and curious:** Everyone has a unique perspective, so listen and be prepared to hear a different point of view. Remember, you do not need to share your political affiliation; this is a discussion and exchange of ideas, not politics.
- **Be respectful and engaged:** Be sure that everyone has a chance to speak before adding a second comment or perspective. Encourage each other's participation.
- **Be focused and concise:** Keep the conversation centered on the issue and the brief.

**The "Table-it" Rule:** If the group has gone off-topic but the area is of interest, the group can table the conversation and save it for another time to be addressed in a different manner.

### Let's begin

- Each member is invited to answer the following questions in a **two-three minute reaction** to the brief:
  - Introduce yourself, and share what "lens of care" did you wear when reviewing this brief (e.g. personal, professional, community, state, nation, global)?
  - What did you find most interesting or surprising from reading the brief? What matters?

### Spread the Word: Some Facts to Share with the Group During Your Discussion

- While [per-pupil spending has increased every year since 2015](#), testing scores continue to fall. According to the [Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#), the U.S. ranked 13th out of 79 countries and regions for reading levels and 37th for math.
- According to EdChoice's polling, over 40% of [Parents, Teachers, and Teenagers](#) would prefer a school schedule that involved some days learning from home and some days learning from school.

- Data from recent polling reflects that while [only 1 in 3 Americans believes K-12 education is going in the right direction in the United States](#), support for school choice policies from parents and the general public continues to climb. Support for school choice polls even higher after a brief description is given defining school choice.
- Within weeks of adoption and release for public consumption, [ChatGPT was already utilized by 30% of college students](#) as recent research revealed.
- In a survey of over 2,000 K-12 educators, [51% of teachers report using the ChatGPT tool](#), including 10% who use it every single day. Additionally, of those who have used ChatGPT, [88% of teachers and 79% of students say it's had a positive impact](#).
- U.S. education technology companies raised \$5.2 billion of investment capital in 2022, down from \$8.2 billion in 2021. As of February 2022, there were 16.6K+ EdTech startups that provide online courses, educational resources, learning platforms, management solutions, teaching resources, and other services for K-12 students, teachers, parents and administrators.

## Let's discuss

*Pick 2 or 3 questions that resonate with the group and discuss, or choose your own.*

- **Community:** What innovative education practices are happening in your community? What strategies can communities implement to foster educational innovation and improve learning outcomes for students at a local level?
- **Local, State or Federal Government:** What are the potential benefits and challenges of implementing different types of innovative education, such as online learning, vocational programs, or personalized learning approaches, at the state level, and how can they contribute to educational innovation and student success? What do you think the role of federal, state and local governments should be?
- **Technology:** Does the presence of online learning opportunities present a challenge or benefit to students?

## Let's act

1. **Take it local. Talk to your neighbors** to identify the status of education innovation in your community. Identify the opportunities to work with other community members in your area.
2. **Explore the impact of education laws in your community.** Look into education governance, such as school boards that set goals and visions for school districts and the discussion around innovative practices in education. [Ballotpedia.org](https://ballotpedia.org) is a good source to look for policies of K-12 education, agencies, and school board elections.
3. **Investigate community programs.** Identify the education programs in your state by searching for [yourstate].gov + "education." Look on your state government website for state agencies, or look for an "education" drop down menu.
4. **Research your elected representatives' positions** on innovation in education and their visions for how to tackle the challenges regarding K-12 education facing Americans at large and your community specifically. You can find contact information for federal, state,

and local government officials [here](#). Your state or municipality's websites will also have information to contact leaders. Try looking at the drop-down menu for a *Government* tab.

5. **Establish a relationship with your legislators.** It's easy to establish a relationship with your legislators. Start by introducing yourself. You can also learn to write to your representatives or set up a meeting with a legislator on [The Policy Circle website](#).
6. **Consider writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed on your stance on new innovative practices in education in your local paper.** Learn how on [The Policy Circle website](#).

## Next Steps for Your Circle

- **Post a Recap:** Summarize your discussion to share thoughts with members not present, and share planned actions from group members. Designate who will post a meeting recap on your circle page.
- **Decide your next meeting topic.** Want to discuss a related brief at your next meeting? Suggestions include:
  - [Crime & Safety](#)
  - [Literacy in America](#)
  - [Foster Care](#)
- **Dive Deeper into the issues.** If this is an area you would like to pursue further, consider taking possible steps to influence policy. The Policy Circle offers resources for [developing a message about your issue](#) and [organizing a petition](#) to amplify your voice and raise awareness.