



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices Policy Academy to Advance Data Dashboards Measuring Student & System Success

PURPOSE

To provide technical assistance (TA) to one or more states and/or territories in advancing their Governor's vision for education through the development of a dashboard of metrics tracking pertinent measures of student and system success across academics, postsecondary and workforce readiness, civic preparation, and student experience and wellbeing. Areas of support include data auditing, data governance, measure selection, project management/process expertise, dashboard construction, and communications support. Activities include offering guidance on evidence-based strategies, facilitating problem-solving, conducting research, drafting written materials, and more.

DESCRIPTION OF TA AREAS OF SUPPORT

Data Auditing	Assessing what data the state/territory does (and does not) currently collect, the quality of that data, where it is stored, and how accessible it is for this project
Data Governance	Breaking down silos between agencies, including establishing MOUs/data-sharing agreements and aligning partners around shared goals, standards, and responsibilities
Measure Selection	Identifying concrete measures (based on either existing data or data the state/territory may wish to collect in the future) that tell the desired story about student success across academics, postsecondary and workforce readiness, civic engagement, and/or lifelong wellbeing
Project Management/ Process Expertise	Guiding project teams through the stages of translating a set of indicators into a final dashboard, with a focus on taking the right steps and asking the right questions
Dashboard Construction	Building the dashboard itself, including determining a platform for the resource, designing and coding the user interface, and conducting user testing to ensure functionality and usability
Communications Support	Promoting awareness of the dashboard among target audiences and developing strategies to actively use it to advance the Governor's vision for education

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project period: July 2026 – July 2027

As part of his 2024–25 tenure, Colorado Governor Jared Polis led an NGA Chair's Initiative titled *Let's Get Ready: Educating All Americans for Success*. One of the primary goals of this initiative was to develop a roadmap to support Governors and states in driving innovation, bolstering capacity to measure what works, and most importantly, preparing students for successful futures and state economies for greater prosperity. The [*Let's Get Ready! Roadmap for Governors*](#), released in July 2025, includes a framework to help state leaders further their education system goals related to academics, postsecondary and workforce readiness, civic preparation, and student wellbeing.

Building on the Chair's Initiative and the roadmap, the NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) is collaborating with seven states/territories (American Samoa, Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, North Dakota, and Oregon) as they undertake efforts to improve measures of critical components of their education systems.

These participants will make concrete, meaningful progress toward identifying and actualizing a set of metrics for success, grounded in the examples from the roadmap. This policy academy will also help Governors' offices establish their own data dashboard with measures of student and system performance, including metrics specific to their state's economic and workforce needs.

The key objective of this policy academy is to identify, connect, and support state leaders who want to better understand and use measures of student and school success across academics, workforce readiness, civic preparation, and student wellbeing. State teams are composed of 5–7 members representing the Governor's office, the state education agency, and other key state and external partners. Each team has committed to monthly meetings with NGA, as well as quarterly virtual convenings and three in-person convenings with all participating teams.

As part of the support for the cohort, NGA is providing each of the state teams with access to technical assistance based on their individualized needs. NGA is issuing this RFP to invite proposals from technical assistance providers to provide individualized support to 1–3 states in the needed areas.

PROJECT PROGRESS

The project officially launched in January 2026. As of May, all state teams have participated in several virtual meetings and the first in-person convening, at which they developed target audiences and vision statements for their dashboards, as well as a set of key action steps to take during the project period.

For more information, [visit NGA's website](#).

PROPOSAL RUBRIC

Criterion	Points Available
Demonstrated Understanding of Project	15
Quality of Planned Approach/Activities	30
Experience & Past Performance	25
Team & Management	15
Budget & Cost	15
Total	100

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete each section below when filling out your application. If you plan to apply for more than one support area, you may complete a separate Section II and III for each support area.

SECTION I: ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Provide a brief organizational overview and short description of the services that you are applying to provide. Please indicate which support areas you will be applying for.

SECTION II: PROJECT OVERVIEW

Proposed TA Approach and Timeline

Describe your proposed approach for delivering technical assistance to a state project team. Based on this approach, provide a timeline from July 2026 through June 2027 for supporting the state from initial engagement through the end of the project. The timeline should address the following questions:

- How will you assess state needs upon beginning your work with the team?
- What milestones will you be utilizing to measure progress and impact throughout the project period?
- What will success look like at the conclusion of the project period?
- What tools and expertise do you plan to draw on to advance this work?
- If you will be supporting more than one state, how do you plan to tailor your work to different policy contexts and audiences?

Capacity and Staffing

Describe your staffing model and capacity for this work, including the roles and expertise of key staff who would support states.

Relevant Experience

Describe your organization's experience providing technical assistance to states or public agencies in the areas that you are proposing to work. Please address the following questions:

- How did you assess the state's needs?

- What milestones measured progress and impact throughout the project?
- What did success look like at the conclusion of the project?
- What tools and expertise did you draw on to advance the project?

For proposals to design, build, or improve data dashboards, include links to at least two examples of dashboards or related products your team has supported and briefly note your role in each, particularly as it relates to your support category.

SECTION III: BUDGET

NGA will offer \$50,000–75,000 for each TA provider per state served based on the nature of the services provided. Please allocate your proposed budget to the relevant expenditure categories in the grid below.

Budget Expenditure Category	Proposed Budget
Personnel	\$
Contractual Services	\$
Project Supplies	\$
Capital Assets & Equipment	\$
Evaluation	\$
Meeting and Conferences	\$
Travel	\$
Sub-Granting	\$
Other	\$
Indirect Costs (cap of 15%)	\$
Total	

NGA may request the following details for each budget expenditure category that you allocated funds to in the budget grid above. Please be prepared to provide the information noted in parentheses after each category below and any other key information that will help application reviewers understand how the project budget will be utilized to achieve project goals.

Budget Expenditure Category
Personnel (name of individual, position at their organization, percentage of FTE, role on project)
Contractual Services (types of work to be performed by contractors)
Sub-Granting
Meeting and Conferences
Travel
Evaluation
Project Supplies
Capital Assets & Equipment (specific capital equipment)
Other (all types of expenses included)
Indirect Costs (all types of costs included) (cap of 15%)

SECTION IV: REFERENCES

Provide the names and contact information for three (3) references who can speak about your work in the areas that you are proposing.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

All applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, June 17 with the subject line Policy Academy TA Provider RFP - [ORGANIZATION NAME]. Applications should not exceed 8 pages.

Please combine all application materials into a single PDF document and email Seth Gerson at SGerson@nga.org. Following submission, applicants will receive a confirmation email from the NGA Center verifying receipt of your application.

All questions about this policy academy and the Request for Applications process should be directed to Seth Gerson and Devon Nir (DNir@nga.org).