

About SEI

Summit Education Initiative is committed to increasing personal and regional prosperity through educational attainment. As a backbone organization, SEI brings together key stakeholders to advance a cradle-to-career approach, ensuring all Summit County students are prepared for success on their chosen paths. Through data-driven decision-making, strategic collaboration, and innovative policy recommendations, we aim to create lasting change in the community. Together, we drive real and lasting change in the community.

Context

Preparing students for success beyond high school is essential for both individual economic mobility and regional workforce development. SEI focuses on preparing students for the challenges of higher education and the workforce, ensuring they are well-prepared to thrive in their future endeavors. To achieve this, we must ensure that students have equitable access to career-connected learning, postsecondary credentials, and work-based experiences that align with industry needs.

Policy Priorities

EXPAND ACCESS TO CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE):

- **Support elimination of middle school waivers** to increase access to technical education.
- **Support increase in funding to reimagine technical education prep centers.**
- Provide recommendations to legislators to help shape the requirement of high schools to **incorporate career planning into students' existing graduation plans.**
- **Leverage up to \$7 million each year to reimagine regionally based tech prep centers,** enhancing mentoring, career advising, and access to career-technical education.

ENHANCE WORK-BASED LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS:

- **Minimize barriers to work-based learning and employment** by advocating for studentcentered policies that support participation in apprenticeships, internships, and co-op programs.
- **Advocate for innovative local transportation solutions to connect students to work-based learning and employment opportunities.**
- **Ensure students have access to wraparound services—including stable housing, healthcare, and childcare—to support their participation in work-based learning and career opportunities.**
- Expand available work-based learning opportunities by **supporting policies that incentivize employers to offer student-centered experiences.**
- **Maximize access to multiple career readiness programs,** including career-technical education and apprenticeship pathways.



Policy Priorities

STRENGTHEN GRADUATION PATHWAYS:

- **Advocate for competency-based education and alternative pathways to graduation** that allow students to earn credit for work-based learning experiences.
- **Ensure stable funding for schools to implement comprehensive career education and readiness programs**, equipping educators with resources to integrate career-connected learning into the curriculum.

INCREASE POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Promote policies that enhance access to affordable college credit and career-tech credentials**, ensuring students graduate with industry-recognized qualifications that boost employability.
- **Encourage collaboration between high schools, higher education institutions, and employers to align career pathways with workforce needs**, making postsecondary education more accessible and impactful.

How We Advocate

SEI collaborates with local, state, and national partners to advance policies that support student success. Through data-informed recommendations, community engagement, and coalition-building, we ensure that policies reflect the needs of students, families, and educators.

PARTNERS & COALITIONS

Our Collaborative Action Networks are groups that join forces to solve specific community problems. They work together, share ideas, and use data for more significant impact than individual efforts.

- **Summit County Youth Coalition**
- **Cradle to Career Steering Committee**

By prioritizing these policies, Summit Education Initiative continues to strengthen the bridge between education and the workforce, ensuring that every student in Summit County is prepared for success in postsecondary education and beyond.

