



Action Hub Description

Policy Research, Development, and Coordination

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Problem Statement: Higher education is navigating a rapidly evolving state and federal policy landscape with significant implications for institutional autonomy, academic freedom, governance, research, and equitable student access and outcomes. State policy activity increasingly affects curriculum, teaching related to race and gender, tenure, diversity and inclusion efforts, and governance structures, while federal policy changes related to civil rights enforcement, accreditation, accountability, research funding, workforce alignment, and student aid influence institutional operations, funding, and flexibility. Across both levels, the pace and volume of legislative and regulatory activity, coupled with fragmented information sharing, create uncertainty and make it difficult for institutions to monitor developments, assess impacts, and develop coordinated, research-informed responses.

Purpose: Support coordinated research, analysis, legislative and regulatory tracking, policymaker education, and information sharing related to state and federal higher education policy developments that affect higher education's role as a pillar of democracy.

Goals:

- Develop research-informed policy frameworks and educational resources.
- Identify and analyze emerging state and federal higher education policy developments.
- Coordinate legislative and regulatory tracking and information sharing across organizations.
- Support nonpartisan policymaker and stakeholder education.
- Advance state-level research, comparative analysis, and cross-state learning.
- Contribute research and strategic insight to *Democracy's Campus 2036*.