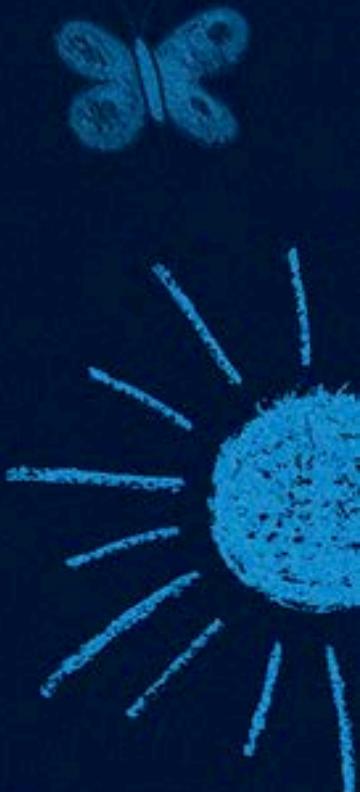




20  
25

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last year, the 1776 Project Foundation **officially launched**, but truthfully, the **groundwork had been laid for years before that**. Hundreds of parents, grandparents, and concerned community members ran for school board during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, where mask mandates and lockdowns dominated the conversation.

Years later, America is still **dealing with the consequences**. The pandemic, and the federal funds to smooth its impact, temporarily bloated budgets, sticking many new board members with a fiscal crisis, rampant absenteeism, and **declining performance across the board**.

**We believe that this can and must be reversed.** The vast majority, over 80 percent, of all students in America attend public schools. The country **cannot afford to cede such a vital institution to an ideologically hostile pedagogy**, nor can it afford a generation or more of Americans who hardly know how to read or write, let alone engage in our civic life.

**Thomas Jefferson wrote** that the object of primary education was “To instruct the mass of our citizens in these their rights, interests and duties, as men and citizens,” **which we believe is vital to the health and continuation of our republican system of governance.**

At the 1776 Project, **we've spent the last year developing programs that truly engage with and advise board members in a way that turns them into effective advocates and policymakers** for this vision. The future of this country isn't decided in Washington or state capitols. It starts in the local public schools, and the values imparted to our children for eight hours a day, five days a week, for 12 years.

Our board members are engaged, and because of them, **the 1776 Project has had an outsized impact on school board policy and over half a million students.**

We're only just getting started.



Aiden Buzzetti, President

# WHO WE ARE

## MISSION:

The **mission** of the 1776 Project Foundation is to create and disseminate policies that will promote academic achievement and revitalize our educational system for families and students across the nation.

## VISION:

The **vision** of the 1776 Project Foundation is a fully revitalized educational system in which public schools effectively serve families and children of all backgrounds and restore academic excellence to its rightful place as a primary goal of education.

# **The Need for Principled School Board Leadership:**

**Our public schools have failed parents and students for decades**, with student scores declining or plateauing despite a 300 percent increase in spending per student (adjusted for inflation). After the pandemic lockdowns of 2020-21, **the need for dramatic change has only become clearer**: student performance has cratered, absenteeism is through the roof, parents and students are increasingly worried about violence both in and out of the classroom while politicians and activists treat our schools as laboratories for their radical ideas.

While some call to dismantle the entire system, we believe the answer is to restore public education by organizing, preparing, and supporting reform-focused board members to lead in this moment of change.

**Parents want, and deserve, the best possible education for their children.** They want high standards and they want politics out of the classroom. Most importantly, parents want the district to **treat them as customers and partners rather than as enemies**.

We need school boards with principled leaders dedicated and empowered to advance academic excellence, not radical ideologies. With you by our side, **the 1776 Project Foundation will equip and empower the next generation of school board leaders to effectively advance policies directed toward academic excellence** in America's 13,200+ public school districts. This is how we are going to accomplish this mission.

**The ranks of reform-minded school district board members are rapidly increasing in America.** They need support, guidance, and research-based policy that will support their reform initiatives, restoring academic achievement the top priority of our school system.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Nan Hayworth**  
Chair



**Ryan Girdusky**  
Founder



**Sarah Peterson**  
Director



**Rebecca Kleefisch**  
Director



**Aiden Buzzetti**  
President



**Bridget Ziegler**  
Policy Director

# BY THE NUMBERS

**Digital Donors:** 10,000+

**Avg. Donation:** \$20.92

**Coalition Members:** 100

**School Districts:** 40/50

**# of States:** 15



# DELIVERING RESULTS FOR LOCAL LEADERS

## **White Papers:**

Restoring Order to the Classroom

Classical Education in Public Schools

## **Resolutions:**

Resolution to Promote Biological Sex Recognition and Eliminate DEI Initiatives

Resolution of the School Board to Support Federal Immigration Law Enforcement

Resolution Recognizing and Celebrating America's Semi-quincentennial

Resolution In Favor of the Adoption of Non-Discriminatory School Discipline Policies

## **Model Policy:**

Parental Bill of Rights

Cell Phone Restriction

AI Policy Framework for School Boards

**Did  
you  
Know?**

**The 1776 Project Foundation hosts a monthly meeting and monthly office hours, covering topics like school budgets, artificial intelligence, and community schools.**

# FIRST 100 DAYS HANDBOOK



On a mission to revitalize education  
one school board at a time.

## THE FIRST 100 DAYS



YOUR BLUEPRINT TO BEING AN  
EFFECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER



**Written by school board members**, this comprehensive guide for new board members has been **published and shared with members across the country**. At 150 pages and counting, this first-of-its-kind guide is the fruit of a year-long collaboration between experienced board members and legal experts, aimed at **helping newly-elected board members get up to speed quickly** and set a course for a successful change effort. It will be continually updated with new information and tactical/strategic learnings and **re-released each year in time for new members to prepare for success**.

# HANDBOOK ACTION ITEMS

The 1776 Project team **mails out a handbook** with a corresponding action item guide, **condensing the lessons from the book into a checklist** for easy reference for school board members.



The 1776 Project team has **mailed out over 200 books** across 6 states:

**Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.**

# AI IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

The 1776 Project Foundation partnered with Heritage Foundation **on a working group for 15 current school board members around the topic of AI in Education.**

This event came about because school board members are **increasingly being solicited by AI vendors** and companies seeking to sell their school districts education technology.

The day-long event aimed to help school board members develop a framework of principles to both **unleash innovation and protect their students from harm.**

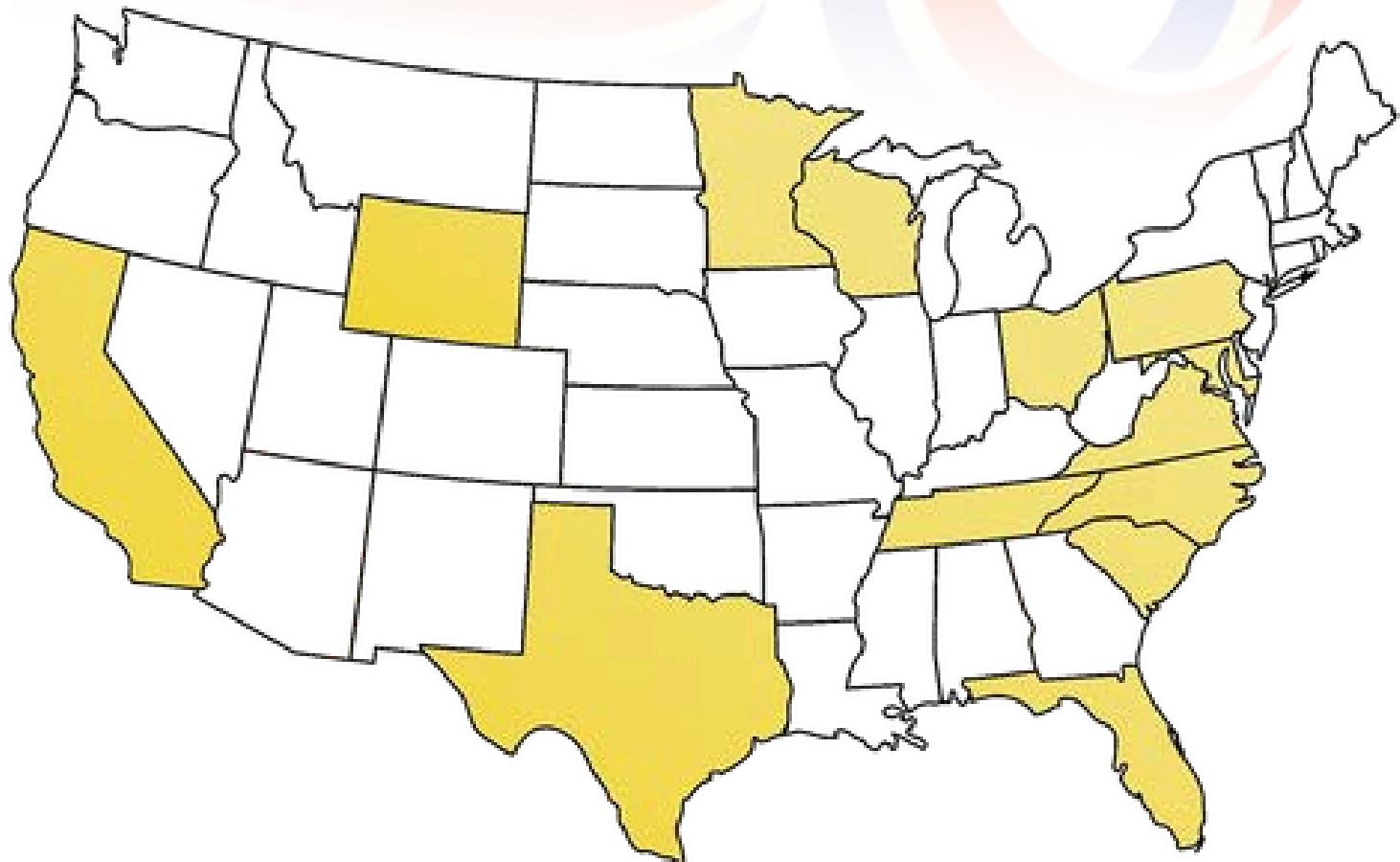
We tackled questions like: **How should school board members respond? What is a principled approach to AI implementation in education?** This day-long event will aim to help school board members develop a framework of principles to both unleash innovation and protect their students from harm.

**Speakers came from:** The Heritage Foundation, Foundation for American Innovation, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Alliance Defending Freedom, Defending Education, American Compass, Georgetown University, CATO Institute, and Institute for Family Studies.



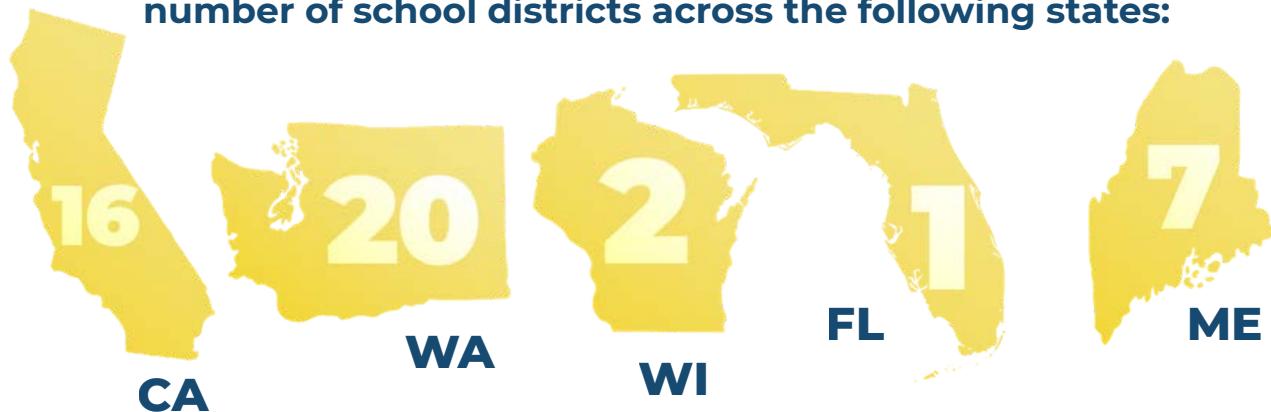
# IMPACT

The 1776 Project Foundation has passed or is close to passing its **resolution celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 20+ school districts across 13 different states.**



# IMPACT

The 1776 Project Foundation has passed or is close to passing its **resolution protecting Title IX and Girls Sports in the following number of school districts across the following states:**



Our **AI in Education Framework** has passed or is close to passing **in the following number of school districts across the following states:**



Our **cellphone ban** has passed or is close to passing **in the following number of school districts across the following states:**



Our **Invocation at meetings resolution** has passed or is close to passing **in the following number of school districts across the following states:**

