STATE POLICY ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE:

Use this tool to 1) consider how state policy is affecting the ability of your institution to scale guided pathways and improve student success, 2) to explore opportunities and challenges for improving state policy in these areas, and 3) to surface outstanding issues for consideration. Colleges are encouraged to fill out the entire assessment, but may choose to focus on specific issues of strategic importance. At the October Institute, JFF will present a summary of assessment results to surface identify common problems institutions are facing and opportunities for joint advocacy efforts

STEPS:

1. **Review the Policy Leadership Trust's State Policy Framework.** It is recommended the college teams read through the Policy Leadership Trust's state policy framework.

2. **Initial policy scan.** It is recommended that each college team designate one team member to determine current state policy conditions (i.e. question on far-left column) and populate assessment with that information before distributing to other team members)

3. **Personal reflections**: After initial policy scan is completed, it is recommended that each team member independently fill out remaining four questions for each issue area.

4. **Team deliberations**: Once independent work is completed, it is recommended that the team lead assemble team members to reflect on commonalities and differences in team responses and to consider priority areas for pursuing in upcoming policymaking cycles of their legislature and public higher education governance entities. It is recommended that the team synthesize their findings into one assessment document.

5. **Board member brief:** Teams should brief designated board members on key takeaways from their common policy assessment.

INSTITUTION:

SETTING CONDITIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS – *Metrics*

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What factors in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What changes to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What questions does this policy area raise for you?
Establish a statewide goal for increasing attainment rates of credentials of value, and regularly report progress toward goal				
Set key performance indicators for student success and regularly report progress (e.g. track momentum, completion, transfer, and employment outcomes of all students -- e.g. full-time, part-time, first-time, returning, and by racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and age subpops)				

SETTING CONDITIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS – *Money*

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Ensure funding levels of institutions and systems are adequate for improving student success				
Reward institutions and systems for improving student success (e.g. performance toward attainment goals and metrics)				

SETTING CONDITIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS – *Systems Integration*

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What factors in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What changes to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What questions does this policy area raise for you?
Foster cross-system collaboration in designing clearer TRANSFER PATHWAYS (i.e. establish process, roles and responsibilities, and deadlines for developing statewide transfer pathways and policies)				
Foster cross-system collaboration in designing clearer PATHS FROM DUAL ENROLLMENT THRU COLLEGE COMPLETION (i.e. establish process, roles and responsibilities, and deadlines for aligning dual enrollment to guided pathways)				

SETTING CONDITIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS – *Systems Integration*

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What <u>factors</u> in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What <u>changes</u> to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What <u>questions</u> does this policy area raise for you?
Foster cross-sector collaboration to bolster FINANCIAL STABILITY of students (e.g. streamlining access to public benefits, braiding federal and state funding of health and human services with postsecondary resources for non-academic supports and financial aid, and incentivizing local partnerships among institutions and agencies)				
Foster deeper collaboration with business and industry to increase responsiveness and connection to labor market conditions (e.g. meaningful engagement of employers to inform decision-making, use of traditional and real-time labor market information to inform decision-making, and Investment and alignment with work-based learning)				

SUPPORTING INQUIRY AND IMPROVEMENT – *Enhance Data Systems*

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What <u>factors</u> in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What <u>changes</u> to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What <u>questions</u> does this policy area raise for you?
Enhance data capacity of systems and institutions and emphasize use of date to identify barriers to student success and inform decision-making on implementation.				
Establish/enhance state-level longitudinal data systems to track progress across K-12, workforce, and higher ed systems and institutions				

SUPPORTING INQUIRY AND IMPROVEMENT – *Invest in State-Level Capacity to*

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What <u>factors</u> in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What <u>changes</u> to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What <u>questions</u> does this policy area raise for you?
Convene institutions to facilitate peer exchange and buy-in of evidence-based solutions to barriers				
Deploy expert practitioners to provide guidance to institutions undertaking reforms				

SUPPORTING INQUIRY AND IMPROVEMENT – *Invest in State-Level Capacity to …*

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Help practitioners understand the implications and opportunities of policies in place				
Broker technical assistance to support institutions in strategic planning, design, and implementation of solutions				

SUPPORTING INQUIRY AND IMPROVEMENT – *Invest in institutional capacity to identify barriers to student success & implement reforms*

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What factors in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What changes to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What questions does this policy area raise for you?
Defray upfront costs of implementing guided pathway practices				
Purchase and integrate technology tools that support guided pathways practices				

SUPPORTING INQUIRY AND IMPROVEMENT – *Invest in institutional capacity to identify barriers to student success & implement reforms*

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Provide professional development for faculty and advisors in support of student success efforts				

SUPPORTING INQUIRY AND IMPROVEMENT – *Remove policy barriers to implementing guided pathway practices*

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What factors in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What changes to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What questions does this policy area raise for you?
Ensure sufficient flexibility for institutions to experiment with implementing evidence-based solutions				

SUSTAINING SOLUTIONS

Does your state have policy in this area (Y/N)? If Y, what is it?	What factors in your state have helped or impeded adoption of this recommended policy?	What impact has state policy in this area had on your institutions' ability to scale guided pathways and improve student success?	What changes to state policy would you recommend in order to bring guided pathways to scale and improve student success?	What questions does this policy area raise for you?
Conduct formative and summative evaluations of implemented practices, especially *before* considering codifying practices in policy				
Establish formal opportunities for practitioners to inform policy design and rule making				

NOTES: