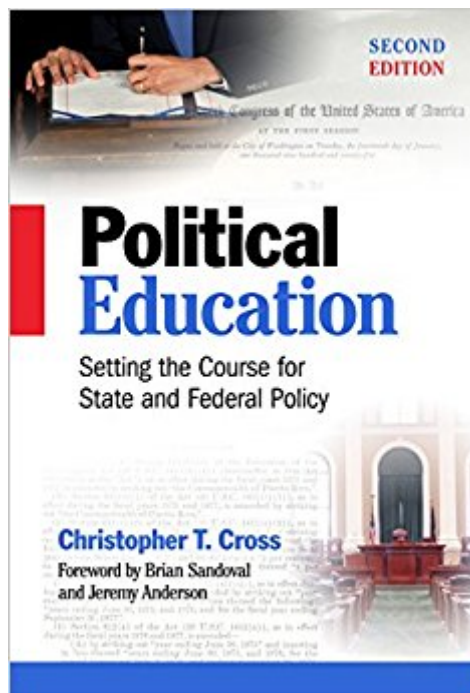


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Political Education: Setting The Course For State And Federal Policy, Second Edition



Synopsis

In this volume, political insider Christopher Cross updates his critically acclaimed bestseller with new chapters and important new insights into future education policy. Cross draws on his own experience in Washington, along with research and interviews, to present a highly readable history of federal education policy, from WWII to the Obama administration. The book highlights the key players who helped shape federal policy because, as Cross writes in his introduction, "policy development is woven of personalities, events, and timing." This fascinating chronicle demonstrates, among other things, how federal policy has been a constant influence on what states and local districts do, especially with respect to students most at-risk.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher T. Cross is chairman of Cross & Joftus, an educational consulting firm, and a distinguished senior fellow at the Education Commission of the States. During his 32 years in Washington, D.C., he served in both the executive and legislative branches, as an assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Education, the Republican staff director of the House Committee on Education and Labor, and a deputy assistant secretary in the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Solid analysis from an insider who demonstrates his comprehensive grasp of educational policy, how it evolves, and what actions are critical for improvement. There is no educator more imminently

qualified than Chris Cross to provide the insights offered in *Political Education: Setting the Course for State and Federal Policy*. The credibility of the practices he proposes is based upon his work in educational policy over the past 35 years in both the executive and legislative branches. Mr. Cross explicitly provides the course of action needed for all three elements to accomplish systemic change: WHAT needs to occur, HOW the practices need to occur for significant impact, and WHO from the state and federal governments needs to be the critical forces in building relationships in order to determine the “future of America’s workforce and the success of our country in a global economy.”

A very balanced description and analysis of the changing federal role in U.S. education, this book is great reading for anyone studying or involved in educational leadership. The history of the federal role provides helpful context for understanding state level governance changes and the growing set of responsibilities assigned to state policymakers and practitioners. This is likely the most concise, clearly written, and thought-provoking summary available -- definitely worth the few hours required to read it, and one I'll keep on my bookshelf for future reference.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Cross. His historical insight into the history of education policy is invaluable as policy makers continue to grapple with many of the issues covered in this work.

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