

Collaboration

- Strong cross-sector partnerships enable systemic change.
- Neutral convener role fosters shared strategy and problem-solving.
- Alignment across state, regional, and local levels reduces redundancy and promotes best practices.
- Commitment to community engagement strengthens trust and participation.

Advocacy

- Ability to mobilize funding and resources for sustainable system redesign.
- Established legislative relationships to advance policy.
- Advocacy for simplified, accessible systems.
- Focus on accountability and implementation to translate recommendations into action.

Equity

- Emphasis on data transparency to identify/close achievement gaps.
- Strategies to remove financial/logistical barriers for marginalized learners.
- Inclusive engagement of families and communities, especially underserved populations.

Data-Driven

- Capacity for high-quality, integrated, and accessible data systems.
- Use of disaggregated data to target needs and guide investments.
- Commitment to continuous improvement through research, evaluation and benchmarking.

← **Which strength(s) matters most to your sector? And why?** →

Early Childhood

K – 12

Higher Education

Workforce

Advocacy

- Short-term funding and limited staff hinder sustainability.
- Dependence on a few lawmakers creates vulnerability.
- Inconsistent implementation of access-simplifying policies
- Limited capacity for accountability and progress monitoring.

Equity

- Inconsistent data collection and disaggregation.
- Insufficient resources to remove barriers (cost, childcare, transportation).
- Challenges in authentic engagement with rural and marginalized communities.
- Difficulty sustaining systemic reforms, risking mistrust.

Data-Driven

- Dashboards may oversimplify equity issues.
- Complexities in integrating systems and securing data-sharing agreements.
- Limited capacity for rigorous evaluation and benchmarking.

From your sector's perspective...

1

...which of these weaknesses could most impact learners, and how might we address it?

2

...if we could fix one weakness identified as a national challenge, which would have the biggest payoff in MN?

3

...where do you see the greatest risk to our collective progress?

Which external factors present the greatest opportunity for impact – and which pose the biggest risk if we don't act?

Collaboration

Neutral Convening: Ability to unite diverse stakeholders for shared strategy – but risk of organizational cultural divides.

State-Local Alignment: Opportunity to share best practices – yet resource gaps and inequities may surface.

Family & Community Engagement: Can enhance access and programming – but requires sustained effort to avoid disengagement.

Advocacy

Funding Partnerships: Employers and philanthropy offer resource potential – yet economic volatility threatens sustainability.

Legislative Influence: Strong relationships open doors – but ideological shifts can stall progress.

Equity

Data Transparency: Enables targeted interventions – but misuse can erode trust.

Community Co-Design: Improves relevance and buy-in – but hardest-to-reach groups may remain excluded.

Workforce Pathways and Tech Access: Expands mobility – but resistance to equity reforms can slow adoption.

Policy Reform: Creates space for systemic change – but leadership turnover can derail progress.

Data-Driven

Public Dashboards & Shared Metrics: Make progress visible – but oversimplification risks misinterpretation.

Integrated Data Systems: Support equity-driven decisions – but privacy and legislative limits pose challenges.

Continuous Improvement: Evidence-based models strengthen impact – but ideological resistance can block scaling.