

**Ron Cowell** is president of The Education Policy and Leadership Center. He previously served for 24 years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1975-1998) and 12 years as majority or minority chair of the House Committee on Education. During that time he also served on the boards of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and Pennsylvania's Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Programs. Ron currently serves as a member of the Board of Visitors for the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education; member and past-chair of the Family Support Policy Board in Allegheny County; and a board member of the Pittsburgh-based Gateway to the Arts, NEED and Communities in Schools - Pennsylvania. He also is a member of advisory committees for the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh and A+ Schools in Pittsburgh.

At the national level, Ron recently served for nine years as a member of the board of directors of the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, and now serves as chair of the Recognition Committee of the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and is on several K-12 and higher education advisory committees. He previously served as a member of the National Education Goals Panel, Vice-Chair of the Education Commission of the States, chair of the Government Affairs Committee of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and chair of the Education Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Ron is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and Widener University Law School.