



# Institute for Objective Policy Assessment

## Business Plan Launch Timelines and Priorities

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IOPA's top priorities are: A) Productive, transformational K-12 school system reform – secondarily Higher ED reform (very little else matters if we fail at ED reform); and B) Right now, most urgent - ending unsustainable federal debt growth or optimal management of the plunge over the fiscal cliff.

It will take ~\$200 K to significantly accelerate IOPA activity. That would fund a key federal fiscal cliff-related research/outreach project (~\$100 K of that \$200 K). Smaller sums will provide a basis for some quick, important policy insights that also give folks a reason to support the IOPA business plan (and large projects) and visit the <https://policytalk.org> website regularly; among other things to join the online conversation forums that are a key part of the IOPA Assessment Process. Nearly as compelling a motive as getting more work going is to bring bright young minds into IOPA; engage them in policy assessment.

Here's what accelerated forward progress would look like:

### A) September and October:

- 1) Organize the federal fiscal cliff project to start right after the election. Who wins determines which part – 1) pursue soft landing; and 2) manage the crash – to pursue first. Because of the Article 5 [of the US Constitution] movements to add a spending growth cap to the constitution, both parts are relevant no matter who becomes President.
- 2) Contract/hire/deploy marketing and website talent. Policytalk.org already has a lot of salient, high-quality ED and Fiscal content; a) [ED](#) and [Fiscal](#) books; b) [nearly 200 1–3-page ED Blog Essays](#), and c) [a Climate Monograph](#). We must help folks, especially policymakers, find it.
- 3) Create a reviewer database – a key to the civil, informed disagreement that turns **ANALYSES** into **OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS** - for: a) K-12 school system policy funding and governance issues; b) fiscal analyses, especially federal fiscal; and secondarily c) the climate change debate.

### B) November thru January 2025:

- 1) Complete most of the federal fiscal cliff project. The books will take longer. We'll provide key book content previews. Major marketing/outreach effort; be available to testify/travel.
- 2) Start, or prepare (depends on B1 above) to start, small-scale (\$10,000) studies that yield some valuable insights and proposals for large-scale studies: a) Higher ED reform; b) Chartered Public School-related scandals – threats to school choice expansion efforts; c) Child Mental Health - transformational reform of state-provided services; and d) Climate Change Debates – a sample audit of a key aspect or two, and propose additional issue audits.

- 3) Launch refined and updated versions of the: a) Private School Access Index (PSAI) 30-year data set; b) School Choice Fiscal Notes Calculator; c) Federal Fiscal Calculator; and d) some state fiscal calculators.
- 4) Work on a proposal to identify the determinants of several measures of K-12 school system performance with data from (all or most) Canada, Chile, Spain, Germany, and the USA. Much of that will occur at a January conference with collaborators from those countries.

### C) February to June 2025:

- 1) Finish the federal fiscal cliff project: a) more outreach; b) get books in press; and c) define follow-up work.
- 2) Complete the small-scale studies described in B2, above. Submit the proposals for the large-scale projects.
- 3) Finish/post the work described in B3, above. Advertise. Conduct state-level analyses for clients. Probably do federal fiscal simulations for the Article 5 amendment-writing process.
- 4) Finalize/submit the proposal for the school system performance determinants project.
- 5) Finalize and launch the transformed <https://policytalk.org>.

### D) With more than \$200 K, or more than \$20,000 per month in small donations:

- 1) Faster entry into climate change debate; more audits; more outreach on that issue.
- 2) More attention to state-level fiscal issues: a) egregious state taxes such as corporate and business-owned tangible property; b) tax base shifts; c) no bailout policy and Zombie states; and d) a key IOPA niche - preparing states for a smaller federal government.
- 3) Some part-time staff; develop IOPA CEO and Vice President succession candidates' database.

First dollars (<\$100 K) will facilitate (more details for each at '[Why IOPA is Needed](#)):

- 1) Create a reviewer database – a key to the civil, informed disagreement that turns **ANALYSES** into **OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS** - for: a) K-12 school system policy funding and governance issues; b) fiscal analyses, especially federal fiscal; and secondarily c) the climate change debate.
- 2) Small-scale (\$10,000) studies that yield insights and proposals for large-scale studies: a) Higher ED reform; b) Chartered Public School-related scandals – big threats to school choice expansion efforts; c) transformational reform of state-provided [Child Mental Health services](#); and d) Climate Change Debates – a sample audit of a key aspect or two and propose more issue audits.
- 3) Federal Fiscal Cliff: a) Write op-eds based on IOPA Author books; b) Provide simulation support for Article 5 spending growth cap proponents; and c) Create awareness-raising videos.
- 4) Explore different efficient routes to much-improved equity in K-12 education. Develop Equity-in-Education Index (EEI). Free schooling has been a terrible equity strategy [and largely a myth, which we know from property value studies], and terribly inefficient, but that strategy persists even in many proposals to expand schooling options to include alternatives to the assigned traditional public school. The planned exploration will include the messaging needed to get low information voters to consider reform that would yield tuition charges for some schooling supported by taxpayer dollars.