

NEW SKILLS FOR YOUTH

Fact Sheet

To advance career readiness for all students nationwide, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), Advance CTE, and Education Strategy Group are partnering with JPMorgan Chase on [New Skills for Youth](#), an initiative to increase the number of kids who are prepared to compete in an evolving job market. The intended outcomes of this collaboration are to:

1. Dramatically increase the number of students completing career pathways, beginning in middle and high school and culminating in post-secondary education, with degrees and industry-recognized credentials in high-demand careers, and,
2. Catalyze transformational approaches to programs and policies increasing students' career readiness, and disseminate lessons learned across the country, through a cohort of 10 states that received grant funds to go farther and faster with their initiatives.

Background

The New Skills for Youth initiative is driven by CCSSO's broader career readiness effort, anchored in the [2014 Career Readiness Task Force report](#) outlining a set of far-reaching recommendations for states to take to improve career readiness. Forty-three states, D.C. and two territories signed on to the following recommendations:

1. **Enlist the employer community as a lead partner** to refocus and retool schools' career preparation efforts to ensure that they are responsive to the labor market and effectively prepare all students for the expectations of the 21st century workplace.
2. Raise the bar for the **quality of career preparation programs** to ensure that all programs are embedded in pathways that are tightly aligned with the needs of the labor market and culminate in a meaningful postsecondary credential or an industry certification in a high-skill, high-demand field.
3. **Make career preparation matter to schools and students** by incorporating career readiness indicators into accountability systems and incentivizing students to earn postsecondary or industry certification credentials in high-skill, high-demand fields.

New Skills for Youth is grounded in a commitment to equity for all kids – particularly economically disadvantaged students, students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities – and that each and every child should be afforded high-quality options that prepare them for education beyond high school and provide pathways into high-demand, high-paying careers.

The States

Through New Skills for Youth, states have received and will continue to receive support to improve career readiness in two ways.

1) Developing Action Plans

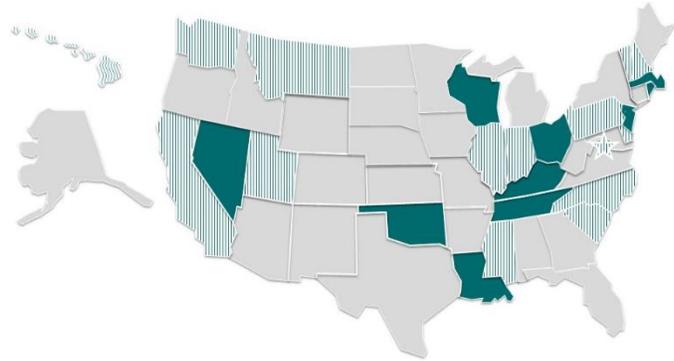
In 2016, 24 states and D.C. received \$100,000 grants over six months to work across industry and state government sectors and create a three-year plan to increase the number of kids who graduate prepared for

career success. Every plan is informed by research and data that shows the employer demand within the state and region, which will be used to measure progress in the future. Each plan has six components:

- Partnering with the employer community to meet industry demands and identify where good careers are available
- Creating pathways that result in credentials that will boost a student's career opportunities
- Ensuring all career pathways are rigorous and of high quality
- Making sure schools are accountable for getting kids ready for college and careers
- Streamlining state and federal funding to support all kids
- Working among and across institutions at the state level to do what's best for kids

2) Acceleration Grants to Implement Action Plans

From the pool of 24 states and D.C. that received funding to develop action plans, in 2017, 10 states (identified in solid color in graphic) were awarded additional grants of \$2 million over three years to put their plans into action and serve as a model for other states. These states are: Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.



Benefits of New Skills for Youth

As part of New Skills for Youth, states receive various forms of support to best meet the needs in their state:

- **Collective Action:** Expert workgroups have been formed to design solutions to specific problems of practice that are presenting barriers to all states in moving forward to provide career pathways to all students. For example, since the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, an expert workgroup comprised of cross-sector leaders from around the country developed a roadmap for how states can use statewide accountability systems to support all kids in achieving success after high school, as well as strategies for putting that accountability system into practice. Currently, a second expert workgroup has been launched to review industry-recognized credentials and will have recommendations for states ready in early 2018.
- **Peer-to-Peer Connections:** States have the opportunity to participate in short-term groups designed to bring together state leaders to share strategies, brainstorm new ideas, receive peer feedback, and grow relationships around central topics, like how to strengthen and scale career pathways for students. States participating in New Skills for Youth also are convened twice a year, each bringing a team of K-12, postsecondary, and workforce and industry partners together to learn from one another and identify ways to strengthen their own strategies and plans.
- **Research-based Resources:** States have access to the Learning that Works [Resource Center](#), a repository of actionable reports, case studies, tools, guides and policies geared to support access to high-quality career pathways, aligned to the NSFY goals and key objectives. This site is open to anyone interested in improving career readiness.