



Welcome to the States Leading newsletter!

The States Leading campaign celebrates the progress states are making toward providing equitable education for all students through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and innovative policies in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

**With Career Technical Education Month wrapping up, this edition takes a look at how states are leading on career readiness and provides resources to support these ongoing efforts.**

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## Must Read

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) partnered with JPMorgan Chase & Co, Advance CTE and the Education Strategy Group to launch the New Skills for Youth initiatives for states to expand and improve career-focused education that prepares students for high-skill and high-wage jobs. **Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia** participated in the first phase of this work.

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## Tools & Resources



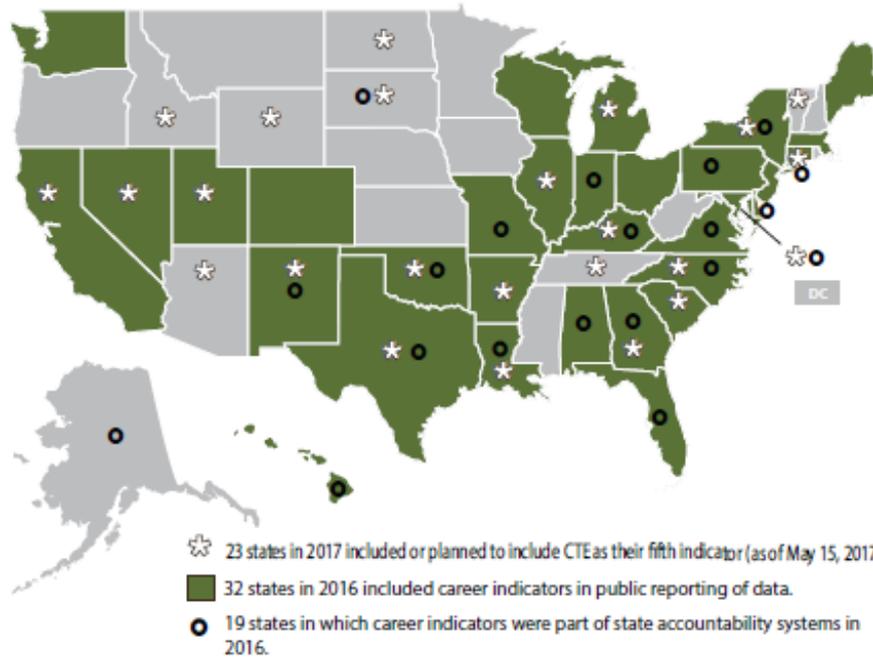
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presented states with a significant opportunity to design their K-12 education systems to prepare all students for college and careers. The Education Strategy Group and Advance CTE reviewed all state plans to examine and document the extent to which states took advantage of the ESSA opportunity to improve career readiness in grades K-12. The report found **35 states** included a career-focused measure in their high school accountability rating systems, with completing dual enrollment, earning an industry-recognized credential, and participating in work-based learning opportunities as the most selected measures.

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## States Opt to Include CTE in Accountability and Reporting Systems



The National Association of State Boards of Education published a policy update on the great strides states are making toward focusing their education systems on college and career readiness. **Michigan, Tennessee, Connecticut, Illinois and North Dakota** are among the first states to include CTE in their ESSA plans. Read more about how these states and others are implementing a more holistic approach to accountability that can enhance career readiness.

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## State Spotlights



## Arizona

In 2017, 49 states passed 241 laws related to career and technical education (CTE), a dramatic increase compared to the past five years, according to a new analysis. **Arizona** was one of the states spurred by the Every Student Succeeds Act to enact laws, executive orders, boards of education actions and budget provisions that expand and provide funding for CTE programs. For example, Arizona expanded CTE programs offering industry-recognized credentials and increased incentives for schools to implement CTE programs.

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## Delaware

**Delaware** is using a New Skills for Youth grant to offer meaningful career experiences to all students. In the first phase of the grant, the state has coordinated with postsecondary and employer partners to launch a statewide workforce intermediary to support school districts in the expansion of work-based learning and help employers to recruit and on-board youth. Delaware also launched new career pathways for students to develop skills in high-demand fields. Today, Delaware is recognized as a national leader in offering career pathways to students.

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## We want to hear from you!

Send your state's stories or organization's resources to [communications@ccsso.org](mailto:communications@ccsso.org)

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