Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day, and the impact of their work extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom. This week, the nation celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week to thank our teachers for their hard work and dedication. Join us as we #ThankATeacher!

This week’s newsletter is dedicated to showcasing the incredible work states are doing to support teachers, so that teachers can provide an excellent education for all students.

Visit StatesLeading.org and follow #StatesLeading on social media to learn more and join the conversation.

State Spotlights

This week may be Teacher Appreciation Week, but the Ohio Department of Education launched the #MyOhioClassroom campaign to celebrate teaching and learning across Ohio year round!

State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria has taken the world with him on his tour of Ohio schools, sharing pictures and videos of the hard work educators and students put into the learning process on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #MyOhioClassroom.

Now teachers and students are using the hashtag to give a glimpse of their work in schools and celebrate their accomplishments.
The Ohio Department of Education has also launched the #OhioLovesTeachers campaign that encourages school and district leaders, parents, family members, fellow teachers, community members, and students to celebrate the remarkable educators in the state of Ohio.

The #OhioLovesTeachers campaign brings our educators to center stage and shines a spotlight on their work and the meaningful ways they are changing lives.

#MyOhioClassroom

#OhioLovesTeachers

Tweet this story
The Utah State Board of Education joined CCSSO and the Network for Transforming Education Preparation (NTEP) to create the Utah Partnership for Transforming Educator Preparation, which is designed to restructure educator licensing and support multiple pathways to the teaching profession while upholding high standards of rigor.

Streamlining the system and allowing educators to obtain one of three potential licenses will increase flexibility and transparency regarding licensing.
The South Carolina Department of Education launched the Dedication to Education campaign to entice more people to become teachers.

The campaign includes ads that will appear on broadcast and cable TV, streaming sites like Hulu, as well as on Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

"In this digital age we've got to do more to get the word out and the best way is through mass media," said Ryan Brown, spokesman for the state's department of education.

South Carolina’s Dedication to Education - Graduation Rates
To recognize National Teacher Appreciation Week, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced a new statewide “Make the Switch: Be a Teacher” campaign.

This campaign highlights educators who switched to teaching after starting careers in other fields and encourages more mid-career professionals to consider becoming teachers.

Torlakson thanked the nearly 275,000 educators who serve California public school students and said “Teaching isn’t just a job. It isn’t just a career. It’s a calling. It’s a commitment to your community, your students, and most of all, a commitment to the future.”

The Louisiana Department of Education created the Believe and Prepare training program to enable 500 expert educators across the state to mentor future teachers.

Through this nationally recognized teacher preparation program, school systems and preparation providers have collaborated to address district workforce needs to ensure that aspiring teachers
experience yearlong, classroom-based residencies under the guidance of Louisiana's best teachers.

New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary of Education Christopher N. Ruszkowski sent a thank you video and letter to all New Mexico teachers to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week.

"Your steadfast dedication and commitment to our students inspires me and inspires the generation of kids who look to you for leadership. I appreciate your work, your CRAFT, and your commitment. And from your fellow educators here at the New Mexico Public Education Department, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for everything you do," Ruszkowski said in his letter.
The Oklahoma State Department of Education announced the second summer of its STEM-field teacher externship program to connect business leaders with teachers.

These paid externships have the potential to transform the classroom experience, inspiring students to become the next generation of innovators.
The Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model (TEAM) brings principals and teachers together to ensure the best possible instruction every day.

Through frequent observation, constructive feedback, student data, and professional development, TEAM is designed to support all educators in doing their best work to help every student learn and grow.
Congratulations to Mandy Manning, a high school teacher in Spokane, Washington, for being selected as the 2018 National Teacher of the Year!

The National Teacher of the Year program, run by CCSSO, identifies exceptional teachers in the country, recognizes their effective work in the classroom, engages them in a year of professional learning, amplifies their voices, and empowers them to participate in policy discussions at the state and national levels.
As the 2018 National Teacher of the Year, Manning will spend a year traveling nationally and internationally to represent and advocate on behalf of educators. Manning looks forward to sharing her belief that educators must build real human relationships inside and outside school walls to better meet the needs of students and create compassion and empathy for young people.

You can learn more about the State Teacher of the Year in your state by exploring CCSSO’s interactive map.

Tools & Resources
This Education Commission of the States policy snapshot, *Teacher Development and Advancement*, explores recent legislation related to teacher professional development and advancement, including targeted supports and leadership opportunities.

Read more

Tweet this story
Under ESSA, the state board of education can play an important part in ensuring that teachers have high-quality support and professional development opportunities.

Using ESSA to Put Teaching and Learning First, published in NASBE’s The State Education Standard, outlines how to develop a learning system that fosters continuous improvement and creates the conditions for quality teaching.

We want to hear from you!
Send your state’s stories or organization’s resources to communications@ccsso.org
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 polices in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

Thank you to our proud partners:
The Council of Chief State School Officers
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National Governors Association
The National Association of State Boards of Education
National Conference of State Legislatures

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