



School climate includes everything from whether students are safe in their classrooms to whether they feel connected and supported socially, and challenged academically. A positive school climate can have a dramatic impact on students' learning and their overall well-being.

This week's newsletter highlights the ways states are working to help schools create positive environments that support the academic and social-emotional growth of all students.

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

State Spotlights



As the first state to include school climate as an early indicator in its academic accountability system, **Georgia** implemented the *College and Career Ready Performance Index* as a diagnostic tool to determine whether schools are on the right path to improvement.

Developed to display data on student discipline, safe and substance-free learning environments, and attendance, the dashboard allows schools to easily identify areas in need of improvement and plan targeted interventions to improve achievement for all students.

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The **California** State Department of Education created the School Conditions and Climate Work Group to explore the development of school climate measures and best practices within California's accountability and continuous improvement system.

These recommendations are designed to inform the advancement of equity and student success through positive school conditions and climate at a school, district, regional, and state level.

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NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The **North Dakota** Department of Public Instruction partnered with AdvancED to administer a 20-question Student Engagement Survey to public school students, and 89 percent of students responded. The effort was part of the state's decision to use student engagement as a non-academic accountability factor in elementary and high schools under its ESSA plan.

"We felt if we could measure how engaged [students] are in their school and in their learning, then we can provide better ways for them to be more curious and be more excited about their learning," said State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

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OKLAHOMA
STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION
— JOY HOFMEISTER —
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

In partnership with the **Oklahoma** County District Attorney's Office, the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs, and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma State Department of Education will host an intensive one-day summit dedicated to mental health resources.

It Starts Here: Trauma-Informed Instruction will enable the collaboration between 800 educators, education stakeholders, and national and state experts to inform and produce mental health resources that support students in the classroom.

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The Conditions for Learning survey administered by the **Iowa** State Department of Education helps schools, teachers, and parents identify areas of strength and potential improvements regarding school climate and culture.

For students, the survey serves as an opportunity to have their voices heard and play a role in efforts to improve their learning environment.

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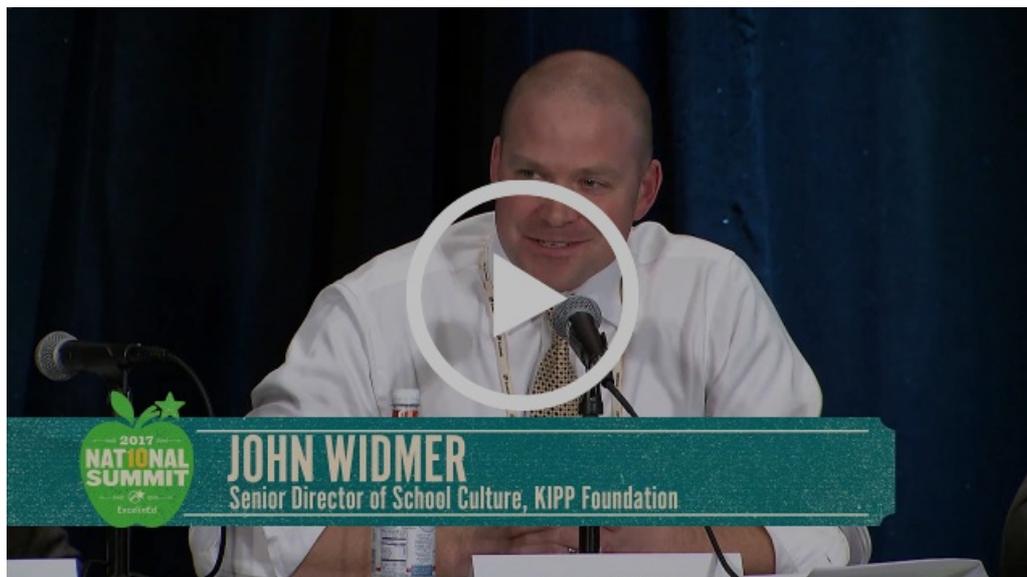
Must Read

CCSSO identified each state's school safety websites and resource hubs. This comprehensive listing allows states to share best practices with each other and easily see what steps each state is taking to ensure safe and supportive school environments.

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Tools & Resources



At its 2017 National Summit, the Foundation for Excellence in Education hosted a panel dedicated to social, emotional, and academic development, exploring policies that can help ensure all schools have the evidence-based strategies to help student succeed.

Moderated by Brooke Stafford-Brizard, Ph.D., a director at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the panelists (Pamela Cantor, M.D., from Turnaround for Children, Dale Erquiaga from Communities In Schools, John Widmer from KIPP Foundation, and Antwan Wilson from DC Public Schools) spoke to the science behind social-emotional learning and best practices that impact student academic success.

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A state information request published by Education Commission of the States examines how family engagement plays a role in mental health and school safety issues.

This resource provides a school-based behavioral intervention and a behavior threat assessment and management model and offers insights into the relationship between mental health and students' perceptions of school safety.

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This policy update published by NASBE showcases how a positive school climate supported by equitable discipline policies is critical for academic achievement and school success.

This resource details why and how adding a statewide indicator within the accountability systems dedicated to school climate and equitable disciplinary polices can help states continue to improve the quality of their schools.

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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 policies in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

Thank you to our proud partners:

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National Governors Association
The National Association of State Boards of Education
National Conference of State Legislatures
The Hunt Institute
The Foundation for Excellence in Education

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