



The States Leading campaign launched in February to spotlight innovative state policies and ideas that are improving education for all students.

As 2018 comes to a close, we are celebrating the most popular state spotlights, tools, and resources to recap the progress states have made to advance educational equity in 2018.

Visit [StatesLeading.org](https://StatesLeading.org) and follow #StatesLeading on social media to learn more and join the conversation.

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## State Spotlights



### Illinois State Board of Education

The **Illinois** State Board of Education launched Ed360, a free, secure, and mobile-friendly data dashboard for educators that delivers schools' data back to them in near real-time.

Ed360 helps teachers and administrators make data-informed instructional decisions and connect to relevant professional development resources.

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The **Nebraska** Department of Education launched the Nebraska's Champions for Equity in Education program to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.

With this commitment, the agency aims to better equip districts and partners to advance educational equity, and to increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life by playing multiple roles for districts, schools, and students: Champion, Regulator, Capacity Builder, Connector, and Change Agent.

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# NM PED

**Public Education Department**

The **New Mexico** Public Education Department has included the growth of the bottom 25 percent of students in each school as an additional indicator in its accountability system.

By incorporating this focus on the lowest-performing students in every school, the state helps ensure that the highest-needs students receive support and attention.

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CONNECTICUT STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The **Connecticut** State Department of Education identified leading practices in seven school improvement areas that research suggest will increase the likelihood of improved student outcomes.

The Evidence-Based Practice Guides are intended to inform school and district decision-making regarding instructional and student support programming and to optimize the use of local, state, and federal school improvement funds.

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California Department of  
**EDUCATION**

The **California** 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 the school, district, regional, and state levels.

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Director Ryan Wise published his newest blog reflecting on 2018 and how the **Iowa** Department of Education made incredible strides to ensure every learner is safe, healthy, engaged, and prepared.

This year, Iowa adopted new computer science standards, improved its early learning standards, and is in the process of putting in place new physical education and health standards.

In addition to updating curricula, Iowa renewed its focus on school safety, experienced growth in college-credit courses for high school students, and saw great strides in the teacher leadership program and its impact on student achievement.

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With programs like the "My Child/My Student" campaign, which brought parents and teachers together for constructive discussions on the state's educational equity initiatives, and the "No Limits" campaign that encouraged high school students to take the ACT, the **Arkansas** Department of Education made great strides in providing opportunities for students statewide in 2018.

With the state's focus on safety, Arkansas became the first state to launch a virtual reality concussion education program called CrashCourse and created the "Flashing Red. Kids Ahead." campaign to promote bus safety.

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## Must Read



Reflecting the growing need to better support and prepare teachers, CCSSO launched a new Diverse and Learner-Ready Teachers Initiative dedicated to diversifying the education workforce and supporting future and current educators in effectively teaching students of different cultural backgrounds.

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## Tools & Resources

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# LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE

**Michigan's** Great Start Readiness pre-k program serves 38,213 students, reaching 51% of the eligible 4-year-old population, according to this report from the Learning Policy Institute.

*The Road to High-Quality Early Learning: Lessons from the States*, analyzes how Michigan and three other states have built high-quality early education systems.

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This issue of NASBE's award-winning journal, *The State Education Standard*, examines how states can build upon ESSA plans to ensure all students receive an excellent education.

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**EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

In *Closing the Achievement Gap: Four states' efforts*, Education Commission of the States highlights **Connecticut**, **Massachusetts**, **Washington**, and **Wisconsin** for their efforts to reduce achievement gaps through state-level task forces and other legislative actions.

While recommendations and goals from state task forces vary, common approaches include: creating programs to recruit and retain teachers of color; expanding early childhood education programs; and supporting English learners and teachers.

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*Promising State Policies for Personalized Learning* is a valuable resource from iNACOL that explores how states are creating policy conditions to support personalized learning.

States are leading by moving forward with initiatives to develop personalized learning pilot programs, hosting task forces to explore policy issues and needs, and taking a comprehensive policy approach for supporting advanced personalized learning models.

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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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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:**

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  
The Hunt Institute  
The Foundation for Excellence in Education

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