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FEBRUARY

Welcome back to the States Leading campaign!

This year, the States Leading newsletter will showcase the latest state initiatives and innovations from each month so that you can learn more about how states are leading the way in educational equity.

This month, we highlight new community engagement efforts in Arkansas, a celebration of Black History Month in New York, new resources from ExcelinEd and NASBE, and much more.

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

College and Career Readiness



The Ohio Department of Education and the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University are [working together to test solutions](#) for chronic absenteeism, college readiness, and college enrollment in rural education.

Instructional
Materials



The **Nebraska** Department of Education created the [Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative](#) to inform and support the local creation of high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials that will prepare students for success in college, career, and civic life.

Teacher Training



The **Kentucky** Department of Education created [the Kentucky Academy for Equity in Teaching](#) to identify and prepare highly effective, experienced, and diverse educators poised to transition into the teaching profession in Kentucky's public schools.



The **Maryland** State Department of Education launched the new [MDCTEWORKS.org website](https://www.mdcteworks.org) to increase the visibility of career technical education and provide a student- and parent-friendly interface to support career planning and job preparation.

Social-Emotional Learning



The **Iowa** Department of Education highlights Northstar Elementary, [an integrated school, parent, and community model](#) that enhances the health and well-being of students through nutrition education, mindfulness, and positive behavioral interventions and supports.

Dual Language



With 1000% percent growth in dual language [immersion programs](#) since 2012, the **Delaware** State Department of Education is helping English Learners gain a competitive advantage with higher levels of proficiency in literacy and mathematics over their non-immersion peers.

Teacher Training



Illinois
State Board of
Education

The **Illinois** State Board of Education announced the new group of students and representatives from higher education, K-12 education, and policy organizations that will make up the [Diverse and Learner Ready Teacher Network](#) to provide recommendations on increasing teacher diversity.

Social-Emotional Learning



The **Indiana** Department of Education created social-emotional learning competencies and [Project Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education](#) tools to increase mental health awareness and provide training and resources for students in need.

Data



Mississippi Superintendent Carey Wright spoke with [the Hechinger Report](#) about how the Mississippi Department of Education's Early Learning Collaboratives use data to better understand classroom practices, programs, and policies that benefit children throughout their educational experiences.

Community Engagement



The **Arkansas** Department of Education launched the [R.I.S.E. Spotlight campaign](#) to share best practices and promote community collaboration in reading.

Diversity and
Inclusion



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

In celebration of Black History Month, the **New York** State Education Department teamed up with The Education Trust to highlight the state's My Brother's Keeper schools and gather inspiring quotes from their students. Check out the hashtag [#MyHistoryMyFuture](#) to see what they had to say.

College and Career Readiness

dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

The **U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity** created the [Choices360 program](#) to help middle and high school students explore college and career options, develop a five-year plan, and navigate the college selection process.

School Health

NASBE redesigned its healthy schools database, [the NASBE State Policy Database on School Health](#), to align the existing state statutory and regulatory language on student health to components of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model.

Career
Education



ExcelinEd published a new [playbook](#) that presents various funding models state policymakers can consider as they prioritize their state career and technical program offerings.

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:

The Council of Chief State School Officers
Education Commission of the States
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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