

APRIL

In this month's States Leading newsletter, we highlight social-emotional learning initiatives, a new FAFSA online tool, and turnaround strategies for K-12 school improvement.

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

FAFSA

The New York State Education Department launched a new interactive online [FAFSA Tracker](#) developed by Data Insight Part to track FAFSA completion rates at high schools across the state.

Collaboration

At the Hunt Institute's [2019 Education Retreat: Advancing Cross-State Conversations](#), state leaders examined key education priorities, including supporting college completion, coordinating early learning services, and developing a pipeline of highly qualified school leaders.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

The Arkansas Department of Education celebrated [Educator Commitment Signing Week](#) by hosting more than 20 events around the state to celebrate individuals committed to the teaching profession and education. These signing day events are part of the Teach Arkansas campaign to increase teacher recruitment and retention.

Conditions for Learning

CCSSO produced a series of resources on social and emotional learning and strengthening conditions for student learning, including [one](#) that examines key opportunities ESSA presents to states to advance social and emotional learning and development, as well as [one](#) that reflects on what improving those conditions looks like in practice and provides promising examples where states have taken action to maximize academic outcomes for students.

School Improvement

Education Commission of the States researched K-12 school improvement practices in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to provide this resource on [turnaround strategies](#) across the nation.

Equity

The Hill published [How states are leading the way on educational equity](#), an op-ed written by Pedro Rivera, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education and CCSSO's newest Board President. Rivera describes how the nation's state school leaders have shared promising practices to deliver an equitable education to all students.

Equity

CCSSO released [States Leading: Promising Practices Advancing the Equity Commitments 2019](#), which provides snapshots of states' practices and policies that create a more equitable education for all students.

Social-Emotional Learning

NASBE's latest policy update, [Gauging Support for Social and Emotional Skill Building](#), takes a deep dive into a survey of community influencers in **Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, and Washington** on how they understand and support the embedding of social and emotional learning in K-12 instruction.

ESSA

ExcelinEd released a series of ESSA [playbooks](#) to provide state policymakers clear recommendations, practical advice, and resources for school interventions.

You can find the full findings [here](#) or watch a [webinar](#) examining the data.

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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