

## **Preparing Today's Students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy: State Leadership for International Academic Benchmarking**

*A Partnership of the National Governors Association, Council of Chief State School Officers and Achieve, Inc.*

Governors and other state education leaders nationwide have been leading the effort to better prepare today's students for tomorrow by focusing our schools on the real world expectations students will face in postsecondary education and their careers, redesigning the American high school, providing better prepared teachers and principals, and strengthening accountability for results. For the most part, these efforts draw heavily on best practices and research in the United States. However, governors and state education officials know that our students must be prepared for high-wage, high-skills jobs in a global, knowledge-based economy.

The National Governors Association in partnership with the Council of Chief State School Officers and Achieve, Inc. will convene a group of national and international experts to help states determine how they can best ensure that each state can benchmark its education system against best practices globally.

### Guiding Questions

The partner organizations will convene an advisory group to answer guiding questions, such as:

- How can states most effectively benchmark the performance of their students and their standards against those of high performing countries?
- How can states most effectively benchmark their education policies and practices against those of high performing countries?
- To what extent can we currently, and how might we measure whether U.S. students are attaining required skills and competencies?

The partner organizations will publish a report summarizing the advisory group's conclusions and recommendations in response to the aforementioned questions.

### Advisory Group

Advisory group members will include:

- Cathleen Barton, Intel Corporation
- Elizabeth Burmaster, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- David Byer, Apple (and Partnership for 21st Century Skills)
- Pat Callan, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education
- Janet Durfee-Hidalgo, Rhode Island Governor Carcieri
- Chester E. Finn Jr., Thomas B. Fordham Foundation
- Brian Gong, National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment
- Lauren Kielsmeier, Office of Arizona Governor Napolitano
- Drew Kim, Office of Tennessee Governor Bredesen
- Charles B. Reed, California State University System
- Andreas Schleicher, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
- William Schmidt, Michigan State University
- Uri Treisman, The Charles A. Dana Center
- Alan Tucker, Stony Brook University
- Susan Zelman, Ohio Department of Education