

February 2017

Achieve Insights is a monthly briefing of newsworthy items from across states and how they relate to ensuring that all students graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and life.

Achieve releases "The State of American High School Graduates: What States Know (and Don't) About Student Performance"

This [report](#) highlights states' publicly reported student performance against college- and career-ready indicators in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Unfortunately, states do not always share many indicators of student preparedness for college or careers. Achieve's individual state reports aim to bring greater attention to this issue because this kind of information is critical for a number of stakeholders. In particular, leaders in districts and states need this data in order to develop programs and policies that support closing gaps in readiness and achievement. State leaders, partners, advocates, and the public should continue to push for more transparency and better reporting of the information they need to understand how their students are doing-and to use that data to examine trends and to determine if policy and practice decisions are producing the kinds of student results desired.



Report finds one in three Tennessee graduates did not complete all requirements but still received a diploma; further analysis reveals that proportion may be lower

A [report](#) by the Tennessee Department of Education found that up to one third of Tennessee graduates did not complete all requirements and should not have received a high school diploma. However, [additional analysis](#) conducted since the release of that report indicates that proportion may be somewhat lower. Up to a third of the students that the report identified as not meeting all diploma requirements may have actually been data reporting errors, while others may have received waivers for some requirements. In a [blog post](#), Commissioner McQueen discussed the need for a high school diploma to be a "passport" for postsecondary education, noting that students who complete all requirements are more likely to enroll at a postsecondary institution. Tennessee is one example of a state that has been committed to high academic standards and requires all students to complete a college- and career-ready course of study. However, it is also important that states and districts implement these college-and career-ready policies faithfully. Students should not be short-changed by earning a diploma that does not adequately prepare them for life after high school.



Denver Public Schools' Home Visit Week

Denver Public Schools' [Home Visit Week](#) aims to boost student achievement. Denver Public Schools' (DPS) Office of Family and Community Engagement conducts parent teacher home visits to help build positive relationships between schools and families in the diverse community that DPS serves. Home visits are an innovative, research-based way to help improve student achievement, attendance, and behavior. The [Climb Higher Colorado](#) third-party advocacy coalition partners with DPS on these outreach activities to help develop parents as partners in understanding and reinforcing the importance of high expectations for students, as well as assessments that help show how well our students are meeting those expectations. DPS' Home Visit Week begins Saturday March 4, 2017.



Eight State and National Updates

- The U.S. House of Representatives invokes the Congressional Review Act to pass a resolution repealing ESSA accountability regulations. That resolution now goes to the Senate.
- Newly confirmed Secretary DeVos shares a letter with states confirming that deadlines for ESSA state plan submission will remain in place, currently in April and September 2017.
- Arizona released the final draft of their ESSA plan.
- Massachusetts released their draft ESSA plan for public comment.
- Ohio releases draft ESSA plan and opens public comment.
- Pennsylvania Department of Education proposes new school rating system aligned with ESSA, called with Future Ready PA Index.
- Idaho's House Education Committee approves new accountability plan under ESSA.
- South Carolina Education Oversight Committee is crafting a new accountability system for public schools, intended to meet ESSA requirements.

All students should graduate from high school ready for college, careers, and citizenship.