

January 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.*

## ***New Jersey students who opted out of the PARCC exam cost state taxpayers over \$1 million.***

The state reported that it paid [about \\$1.4 million](#) for PARCC exams that were not taken by students. This is just one of the many negative consequences caused by large numbers of students opting out of statewide assessments. In addition, the state has an incomplete picture on aggregate student performance in districts and in the state as a whole, across grades, content areas, and student sub-groups due to high levels of students opting out.



## ***Arizona State Board of Education adopted new ELA/literacy and mathematics standards.***

Working groups of over 200 Arizona educators reviewed each set of standards and provided revisions. At the request of the Arizona State Board of Education, [Achieve provided a review](#) of the penultimate draft of the standards and ultimately found the draft standards to be appropriately rigorous to support college and career readiness for all students.



## *Utah State Board of Education recommends changes to diploma options for students with disabilities.*

Current state regulations allow districts to modify graduation requirements for a student with a disability; however, under ESSA, a standard diploma may not be awarded to a student with a disability who does not access grade-level instruction, meet graduation requirements, or receives instruction through alternate achievement standards. Because this federal requirement is inconsistent with current state regulations, the State Board of Education recommended the Board reviews and considers revising and/or adding to existing graduation options for students with disabilities. The State Board of Education report cites [Achieve's recent brief](#) (developed in partnership with the National Center on Educational Outcomes at the University of Minnesota) on diploma options for students with disabilities for its recommendations, and included the brief as a standalone resource.



## 10 State Updates

1. CA: U.S. Department of Education denies state's request for a waiver and insists students take old science test aligned to previous standards, leaders in the state still plan to pilot tests aligned to new standards.
2. CO: State Board of Education votes to issue RFP for ELA and math assessments for grades 3-8
3. CT: State announces that it will work to develop a new science assessment to be given in grades 5, 8, and 11 (aligned with the state's new science standards) starting in 2018-19
4. DE: Indian River School District Superintendent Dr. Susan Bunting was nominated by Gov. Carney to be Delaware's next Secretary of Education
5. MT: State's ESSA plan submitted to USED; however, the Trump administration recently placed a 60-day freeze on all pending regulations, which includes ESSA regulations. Thus, ESSA planning for many states could be in flux.
6. NY: Board of Regents approves new P-12 science learning standards
7. NC: Math and ELA standards review process underway, includes

K-12 ELA, K-8 math, and advanced high school math standards

8. OH: Task force formed to discuss state graduation requirements tied to performance on state end-of-course assessments; the current requirements are meant to better prepare students to enter the workforce or postsecondary education, but current performance levels on the end-of-course assessments could keep some students from graduating.

9. TN: DOE launches redesigned state report card that includes state, district, and school-level data.

10. UT: State Board of Education elected Mark Huntsman to chair the Board

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ready for college, careers, and citizenship.*

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