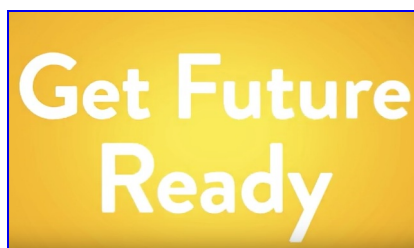


March 2017

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.

Ready Washington's Opt In For Student Success Campaign

For the second year in a row, the Ready Washington coalition sponsored a campaign for students to create and submit videos explaining the importance of a good education, taking quality assessments, and preparedness for college and careers. The student creators of the five best videos earned college scholarships for their submissions. Ready Washington has shared each of the winning student videos, as well as a compilation of the winners' videos on the [Opt In For Student Success website](#). You can also find information on the [top three reasons](#) students in Washington should take the Smarter Balanced assessment and [FAQs](#) about the state's standards and assessment.



Kentucky's SB 1 passes through both houses of the legislature

SB 1 provides for, among other things, a review of the state's academic standards. Now, the bill goes to the state's governor, Matt Bevin, for signature and enactment. Some news stories have stated that the bill repeals the Common Core State Standards in Kentucky, which is not accurate. In summary, part of the legislation requires the Kentucky Department of Education to begin a process to review and revise the state's academic standards, beginning in the 2017-18 school year, and again every six years following that initial review. Once these standards are reviewed



and revisions are made, it is vitally important that Kentucky does right by its students and adopts revised standards that still hold students to high, college- and career-ready expectations. In fact, many states have conducted similar revision processes and maintained high, rigorous standards that will help prepare students for college and careers. Achieve has [conducted reviews](#) of several states' standards revisions and shared them publicly.

Achieve shares a compilation of statewide, summative assessments from all fifty states and the District of Columbia for 2016-17

Each year, Achieve collects from publicly available sources the English language arts/literacy, mathematics, and science assessments states are administering statewide in grades 3-8 and high school. See the 2016-17 compilation [here](#). In the recent past, many state assessment systems have been in flux as states have chosen new tests or new vendors, and added or removed end-of-course assessments. As you can see in some of the additional updates below, states aim to continue this trend. What is most important is that states select assessments that align to their college- and career-ready standards. Quality and aligned assessments are vitally important as a way for all stakeholders to see how well schools, districts, and states are helping their students meet the demands of rigorous standards.



Eight State and National Updates

- At Alabama's State Board of Education meeting, [Superintendent Sentance indicated](#) the state might move away from ACT Aspire and contract with a new vendor or create its own test.
- Arizona's state board of education [is considering guidelines](#) for the implementation of a law passed last year that would allow for districts to use a "menu of assessments" for tests in high school used for accountability purposes, including the evidence districts would need to provide to use an assessment other than AzMERIT.

- California Department of Education rejected Long Beach District's request to use SAT instead of the Smarter Balanced Assessment.
- Colorado's HB 17-1181, a bill that would require the state to discontinue using its current 9th grade assessment and choose a new test aligned to its 10th grade assessment, PSAT, passed the House.
- Georgia's SB 211, which would require the state to perform a review of its current Georgia Milestones end-of-course assessments as well as other nationally-recognized summative assessments, passed the Senate.
- Iowa's SF 240, a bill which would, among other things, require the state to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a new assessment for the 2018-2019 school year, passed the Senate.
- Minnesota's SF 333, a bill to replace the state's Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment System with a new, nationally normed college entrance exam, passed the Senate.
- Six groups responded to Nebraska's RFP for a new statewide assessment beginning in the 2018-19 school year.

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