Our Strategic Priorities to Drive Student Success

At Achieve, we are committed to making sure every student graduates high school ready to succeed in the college and career of their choice.

Founded in 1996 by governors and business leaders, Achieve has spent two decades leading the effort for states to prioritize college and career readiness for their students. We bring together educators, policymakers, researchers, advocates, and other experts at the local, state, and national levels, providing them with sound education policy solutions, topical academic research, and networking opportunities to share ideas and best practices.

We support state leaders who are working to prepare students for success by improving state standards and instruction, aligning assessments to standards, eliminating unneeded tests, and creating accountability systems. We regularly measure how states are doing in making sure graduates are ready for college and career – and advocate steps to better prepare students for success.

Moving Forward

We still have far to go: the mission that drives us – raising expectations for all students and helping students meet them – remains the same. Our tactics and how we work with partners to improve student outcomes will necessarily shift over the next 20 years as we respond to the changing landscape faced by our students.

We have reviewed our strategies and determined that over the next three to five years, we will pursue the following priorities to continue delivering the expertise, solutions, and results that drive success for all students.

1. Priority One
   Keeping the Focus on All Students in All States

2. Priority Two
   Connecting More Dots Within the States

3. Priority Three
   Building & Expanding Partnerships

4. Priority Four
   Strengthening Our Foundation
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We have reviewed our strategies and determined that over the next three to five years, we will pursue the following priorities.

1. **Priority One**
   **Keeping the Focus on All Students in All States**
   
   Achieve will continue to be the nation’s leading voice for college and career readiness for all students. We will take that leadership role a step further by working with states to commit to – and report on – that readiness.

   We will continue our research, digging into the data to make sure states are being transparent and ensuring we fully understand what makes the numbers move. We will work with states, districts, and partners to share this information broadly, always mindful to disaggregate it by subgroups of students so that special attention can be paid to closing persistent achievement gaps. We will work to paint a full, nationwide picture of how all students are doing, supporting states and districts as they work to improve student performance closer to home.

2. **Priority Two**
   **Connecting More Dots Within the States**
   
   Ensuring all high school graduates are ready for college, careers, and life requires more than standards alone. College and career readiness policies must include high-quality assessments, coherent graduation pathways, transparent outcome (and system) information, and equitable accountability systems in order to be fully effective.

   We will be reviewing, analyzing, and sharing the work we do in these areas. Our deep content knowledge and expertise in English language arts (ELA)/literacy, mathematics, and science positions us as the reliable source to conduct this work and to provide state and district education leaders with the tools, resources, and strategic advice – rooted in data and research – that will help them make informed decisions.

3. **Priority Three**
   **Building & Expanding Partnerships**
   
   We cannot achieve our mission and succeed without help. It is a point of pride that we have strong partnerships across and within states – gathering stakeholders from the education, policy, business, and civil rights worlds who are committed to adopting and sustaining college and career readiness policies and practices.

   We are committed to providing counsel, expertise, and advocacy and communications support to expand the number of advocates calling for college- and career-ready policies and practices. We have a solid coalition-building strategy that we will expand and refine to empower local voices of support. We will also broadly share lessons learned from this work to boost advocacy efforts among our national and state partners.

4. **Priority Four**
   **Strengthening Our Foundation**
   
   Accomplishing our mission depends on a strong organizational foundation from which to launch our work. Achieve is committed to developing our outstanding staff and maximizing the use of smart internal controls to keep us at peak efficiency. We will ensure our financial sustainability and strength by deepening relationships with traditional funders as well as cultivating new funding relationships – and we will continue to rely on our impressive Board to advance our work.

Learn more at [www.achieve.org](http://www.achieve.org) or contact us at [Next20@achieve.org](mailto:Next20@achieve.org)