



August 2017

New report details how states are including science in ESSA plans

A [new brief](#) from Achieve examines ways in which the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) supports science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Achieve's analysis of submitted state ESSA plans, which focused on science in particular, reveals a number of different ways states have proposed incorporating STEM initiatives moving forward. In addition to proposing STEM-related programming and professional development uses for federal funding, many states are now planning to include science in their redesigned accountability systems. The brief also presents ways in which states currently include science in their statewide assessment systems and graduation requirements.

Education First also recently released a [report](#) on the same topic. Be sure to check out [this piece](#) in *Education Week* covering both reports.



Demand for technology skills higher in Massachusetts than U.S. overall

Achieve and Burning Glass Technologies released [a report](#) that analyzes the demand for technology jobs in Massachusetts, showing that nearly one in four jobs (23 percent) in Massachusetts involve computer science skills - significantly higher than the national average of less than 18 percent. The trends illustrated in the report show the importance of increasing the supply of people with computer science knowledge and skills in Massachusetts, particularly in the Boston area.



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States need greater data transparency

Earlier this summer, Achieve released [a new set of reports](#) evaluating states on their transparency in reporting on eight different indicators of college and career readiness. Here's how some have been calling for changes in states.

[Robust data needed to track performances of students](#)

The Poughkeepsie Journal

"New York is below the national average in reporting important indicators of student success. While the state gets kudos for reporting on four-year graduation rates and college- and career-ready coursework and assessments, there's much more that could be helpful. For example, how many eighth- or nine-grade students are on track to graduate? How many students are taking advanced level coursework?"

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[New Report: Transparency Matters for Our Students' Success](#)

Medium

"Breaking down results for different groups of students, like Washington does for several measures, allows education leaders and the state to better direct resources to support students who are struggling and improve education opportunities for all of Washington's kids."

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Ending the Double Disadvantage

Change the Equation released a [brief](#) with extensive new data on the double disadvantage faced by low-income students in terms of STEM education. Poor students suffer the deprivations of poverty, and their schools concentrate those deprivations. Students in schools where more than 75 percent of students are eligible for free or subsidized lunches are much less likely to have access to STEM resources, experiences, and classes most wealthy parents would demand for their children.



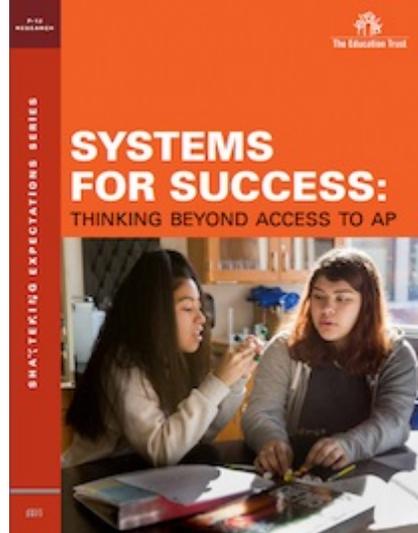
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Systems for Success: Thinking Beyond Access to AP

A [report](#) from the Education Trust explores

the practices of two diverse high schools that have achieved the dual goals of enrolling more students of color and low-income students in AP courses and increasing the percentage of students passing the associated exams. The national data are clear: More students of color are taking AP exams, but success rates for these students lag behind those of their peers.



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Parents: Encourage students to study advanced math and science

From the *Tallahassee Democrat*: "Your daughter or son is not well prepared for a college major in a STEM - science, technology, engineering, math- or health field unless she or he has taken chemistry, physics and a math course called 'precalculus' in high school. Taking a calculus course in high school is even better."



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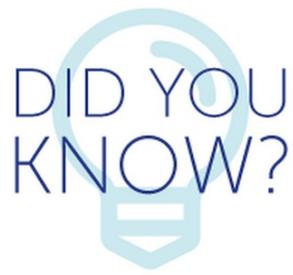
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As of mid-July,

10 states

were including science in their accountability plans submitted under ESSA.

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ready for college, careers, and citizenship.*

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