



July 2019

ICYMI: New Data Explorers and Analysis on Graduating Ready Website

We recently released several exciting updates to our Graduating Ready website! Don't miss:

- The details of the [options and requirements for graduation](#) in every state, now updated for the Class of 2019
- A **NEW** [data explorer](#) offering a state-by-state look at **high school assessments** and how they matter (or don't) for both students and schools, plus a [new brief](#) analyzing the trends in assessments across states
- An additional [new brief](#) examining the different STEM graduation pathways that states are offering students



We encourage you to [use the site](#) and [share it](#); we hope it leads to useful conversations about the connections between graduation options, testing, accountability, and college and career readiness. Join the conversation [on Twitter](#) using #GraduatingReady to tell us how your state, district, or school is working to make high school graduation meaningful for all students.

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From the Boston Globe: BPS needs to address uneven course quality without narrowing horizons

A [letter to the editor](#)

from Achieve's President, Michael Cohen, recently appeared in the *Boston Globe*. In response to the *Globe's* recent article on uneven course quality in

Boston Public Schools ("[At Boston high schools, 1,900 courses - but no process for evaluating their rigor](#)"), Cohen argues that "Inconsistency in the classes students take represents an enormous threat to educational equity. Even with a course of study, such as MassCore, that is designed to make sure students learn the content they need to succeed after high school, there's far too much variation in quality and access... Course titles are not enough; districts and schools need to make sure the content measures up."



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How Are States Elevating School Improvement and Success?

A key way for states to learn from one another is to publicly share success stories. Take a look at how several states are using their bird's eye view of how schools are succeeding to celebrate growth and achievement.

Washington D.C. released "[Lessons from the D.C. All-Star School Tour](#)," based on leaders' visits to ten schools showing high growth for students on the D.C. School Report Card and School Transparency and Reporting (STAR) Framework. Schools were selected for demonstrating exceptional growth for students with disabilities, at-risk students, and English learners.

Hawaii created a "[Bright Spots Map](#)" which links to narrative success stories from all over the state. "From high-achieving students to our award-winning teachers, from schools that break records to the partners and volunteers who help them get there, these are their stories." Check out a success story example [here!](#)

Ohio created a "[Rewards and Recognition](#)" page that includes the Momentum

Awards (for exceeding expectations in student growth for the year), Schools of Promise (making substantial progress in ensuring high achievement for all students), Schools of Honor (sustained high achievement and substantial progress while serving large number of economically disadvantaged students), and All A Award earners (earned straight A's on all of their applicable report card measures).

From ExcelinEd and Burning Glass Technologies: Where Credentials Meet the Market

A [new report](#) from Excel in Ed builds on the foundation laid in its earlier report, [Credentials Matter: A National Landscape](#), and examines the impact of credential attainment on long-term student outcomes. This second report in an ongoing research partnership with Burning Glass Technologies analyzes the credentials students earn in high school and their impact on students' high school completion, community college enrollment and completion, and wages. It provides insights into the return on investment of earning a credential in Florida, Indiana, and Kentucky - three states that collect rich, student-level data.



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What We Read in June

- From the Aspen Institute: [Why Is One of America's Best Teachers Leaving to Work Abroad?](#)
 - From the Data Quality Campaign: [Prioritizing Continuous Improvement, More States Release Updated Report Cards](#)
 - From Education Week: [Is the Nation's Rising Grad Rate Real?](#)
 - From the Fordham Institute: [Student Outcomes Have Improved in More Than Just Reading and Math](#)
 - From Getting Smart: [How Educators Can Prepare for the Future of Work](#)
 - From New Jersey Spotlight: [What Colleges and Business Think NJ High School Graduates Need](#)
 - From NGSS Now: [June 2019 NGSS Now Newsletter](#)
 - From The 74: [Williams: Together, Student Report Cards and School Report Cards Can Show Parents How Their Kids Are Really Doing in School. 5 States That Get It Right](#)
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Let's Partner

Is your district or state looking for support in the design, selection, and implementation of science tasks for instruction and assessment?

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

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