



Achieve

Perspective Newsletter

March 2016

Dear Reader,

In the effort to provide every child with an excellent education that prepares them for success, strong leadership at all levels is critical. From classroom teachers and district administrators to commissioners and state boards of education, students and their families depend on education leaders for good policy, effective implementation, and robust support. This issue of Perspective includes our report on the tremendous amount of turnover in education policymakers at the state level that we saw across the country last year, and offers numerous resources to assist other district- and classroom-level leaders in their efforts.

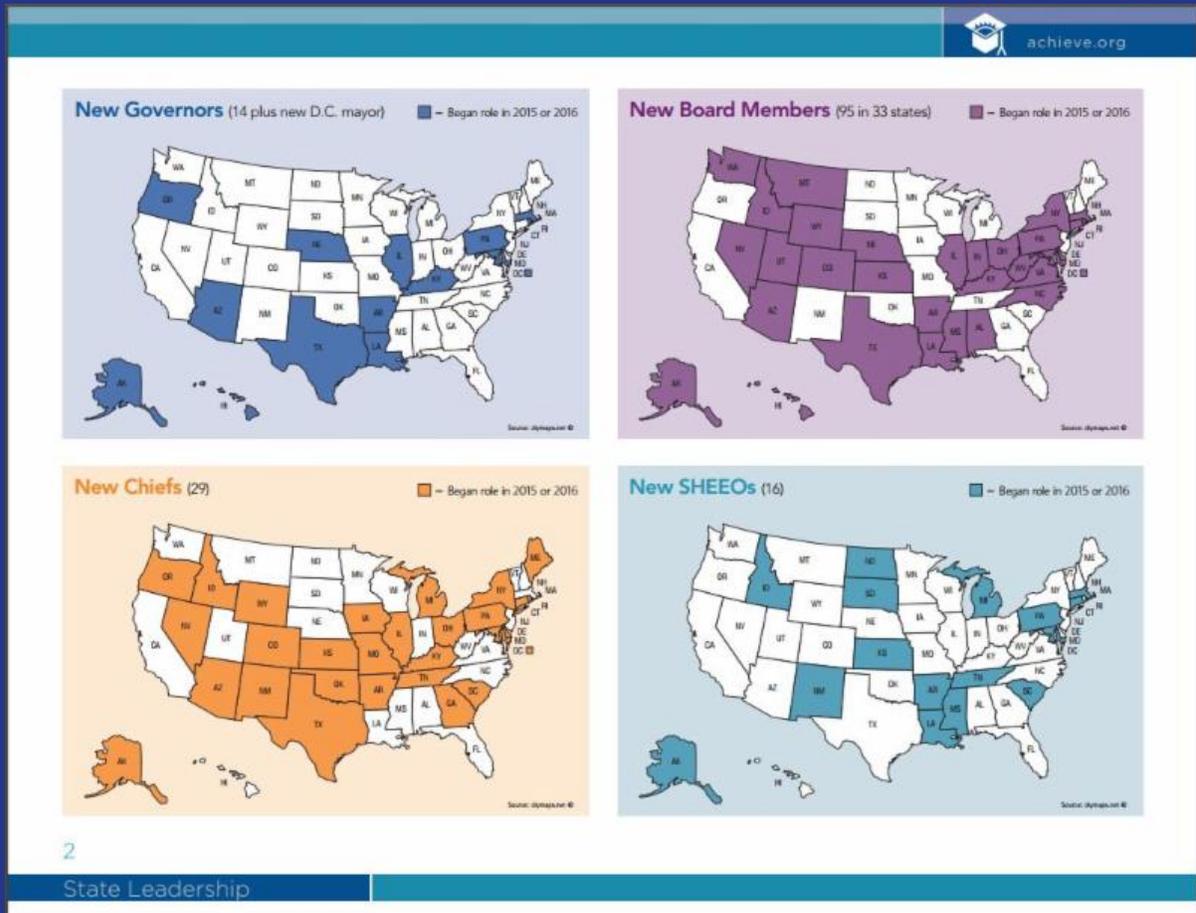
Michael Cohen, *President, Achieve*

New Report Shows Significant Turnover in State Education Leadership in 2015

Presidential election season brings increased attention to turnover in cabinet positions and Congress. However, when it comes to education, the most important leadership changes occur at the state level: among governors, state boards of education, state legislators, and state leaders of K-12 and higher education systems. That's because, despite rhetoric to the contrary, education is primarily a state and local issue.

This new report details the changes that took place across the country in 2015 and early 2016 in four key state leadership roles: Governor, State Boards of Education, Chief (leader of the K-12 system), and State Higher Education Executive Officer, or SHEEO (leader of the postsecondary system). All but seven states

experienced turnover in at least one of these roles and many will continue to experience change during 2016. Given the number of states who saw new leaders take office - especially as state legislative sessions gear up - it's critical that education stakeholders such as parents, community leaders, and business leaders be a consistent voice for keeping expectations high and improving student performance in their communities.



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Coming Next Week: *The College and Career Readiness of U.S. High School Graduates*

For more than a decade, Achieve has issued [an annual 50-state report](#) on each state's adoption of college- and career-ready (CCR) policies as reflected in state standards, graduation requirements, assessments, and accountability systems. This year, in order to better understand whether students are meeting the college and career readiness goals of these policies, Achieve's annual report will look not at state



policy but at actual student performance against CCR measures in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Fifty-one individual state profiles and a cross-state report will be available on Achieve's [website](#) next week.

150+ EQuIP Exemplars Now Available (and Pinnable!)

Achieve's Peer Review Panel of expert educators for the [Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products](#) (EQuIP) initiative has identified the 150th set of exemplary instructional materials aligned to the Common Core. More than [150 lessons and units](#) in all grade bands in both mathematics and English Language arts (ELA)/literacy are freely available online. Additionally, to celebrate this milestone, all EQuIP exemplars can now be found on Achieve's new and improved [Pinterest page](#). Check them out!



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Harvard Study Finds Wide Embrace of Common Core among Teachers

A [new study](#) from the Harvard Center for Education Policy Research examined educators' perspective on Common Core implementation across several states. Researchers found that despite the work that has been required to adapt their lesson plans and instructional materials, 73% of teachers report having embraced the standards.



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Updated Assessment Resources

Achieve has released updated tables detailing states' assessments for science, ELA/literacy, and mathematics in grades 3-8 and in high school.



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New NGSS Website Launches

The Next Generation Science Standards have a new website! nextgenscience.org now has a brand new look and more levels of utility. The revamped website has new features for parents, teachers, school administrators, and other advocates of the NGSS. It offers a more user-friendly layout, extensive search features for all resources, and additional functionality to access content, including the NGSS appendices and performance expectations.



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CBP Innovation Zones

States across the country are embracing innovation in education. In recent years, there has been an upsurge in district pilots that re-envision student learning by promoting competency-based pathways. States have supported these pilots, or "Innovation Zones," in the hopes that lessons learned can inform their broader vision and potentially lead to expanding pilots statewide. This [new brief](#) explores the state's role in creating and supporting district innovation zones, including key areas of focus for the planning and implementation processes.



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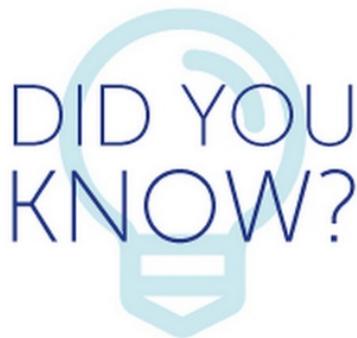
Janet Murguía Joins Achieve Board

Achieve is pleased to announce that Janet Murguía, President and CEO of [NCLR](#) (National Council of La Raza), has joined its board of directors. By joining the board, she will help to guide Achieve's work to lead and support state efforts to improve systems of standards, assessment, accountability, and graduation requirements so that all students are prepared for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship.



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Achieve's recent report on turnover in state education leadership found that

31 states

are currently led by a different chief than when the 2014-15 school year began.

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

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