



March 2018

States Leading: Progress and Best Practices

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the Education Commission of the States (ECS), the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) joined together to launch a new "States Leading" campaign to highlight innovative policies states are crafting to create a more equitable education system for all students. Learn more on the campaign [website](#) or check out the #StatesLeading hashtag on social media.



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Graduation Rates Are Up - But Is Student Readiness Increasing Too?

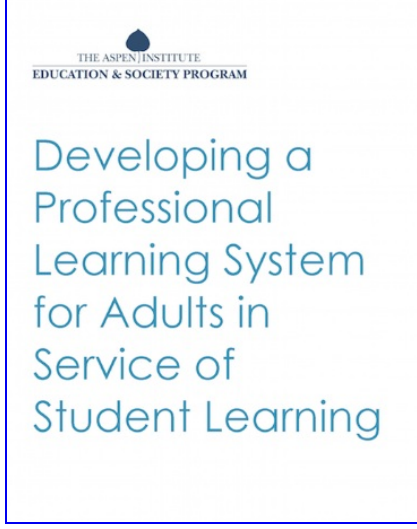
Recent pieces out of [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), and [New Jersey](#) focus on the key question that every state should be asking: does the increase in high school graduation rates that many states are seeing mean that more students are ready for life after high school? All too frequently, the answer appears to be no. New America also recently published [an article](#) about how deceptively high graduation rates that don't reflect actual student achievement often disproportionately hurt students of color, low-income students, and English learners.

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Developing a Professional Learning System for Adults in Service of Student Learning

A [new report](#) from the Aspen Institute's Education and Society Program establishes guiding principles for creating a deeper, more effective professional learning system for teachers to in turn improve student learning outcomes. At its heart, this is an equity issue - a critical component of ensuring that all students in a system have equal access to rich, high-quality learning.



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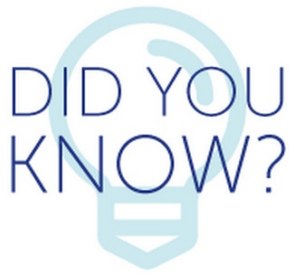
From Education Dive: Students Gain Workforce Skills through Part-Time Jobs

"Jobs also provide students with more immediate benefits, such as learning how to interact and communicate with adults, take on leadership responsibilities, and manage money. They also acquire many of the other soft skills that employers are increasingly saying are just as important as academic achievements or technical ability."



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Achieve's analysis of state's ESSA
accountability plans found that only

11 states

include an on track to graduate measure in
their high school accountability system. Make
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*All students should graduate from high school
ready for college, careers, and citizenship.*

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