



May 2016

## Dear Reader,

In order to fully realize the promise of college- and career-ready standards, classroom educators must be equipped with high-quality instructional materials. As the recent RAND study highlighted below shows, teachers are using Google, Pinterest, and a variety of other web-based sources to help plan lessons. Not only does this suggest that teachers find the materials they've been provided insufficient to meet their students' needs, it also shows how actively teachers are seeking out resources online. That means all teachers need access to professional development and tools so that they can become smart consumers; tools such as Achieve's [EQuIP](#) can help teachers confidently make decisions about quality and alignment.

Sandy Boyd, COO, Achieve

## RAND Study Examines Common Core Implementation and Instructional Materials

RAND released [a study](#) on Common Core implementation, focusing in particular on instructional materials aligned with the standards. A survey of a nationally representative sample of K-12 teachers in the U.S. showed that high percentages of teachers believe they are using materials aligned to the CCSS, and that very high percentages are using district-developed or teacher-developed instructional materials. In addition to analysis of materials currently being used, the report also provides recommendations for implementing the CCSS, including guidance from states and districts on developing and selecting instructional materials in mathematics and ELA.

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## *12th Grade NAEP Scores Show Many Not Ready for College or Careers*

Newly-released results from the 12th grade administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card, showed that many high school seniors are unprepared for life after high school. 2015 results showed a drop in math scores compared to the 2013 administration of NAEP while reading scores remained flat. Gaps between the highest and lowest performers also increased in both subjects. Explore the full set of results [here](#), and check out Achieve's "Honesty Gap" analysis comparing 4th and 8th grade NAEP results with state test results [here](#).



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## *Postsecondary Cross-State Comparison Report Available*

In addition to individual state profiles and a K-12 cross-state comparison report, Achieve has released as part of its annual report on college and career readiness [a report that compares postsecondary outcomes](#) across all 50 states. This report looks at states' postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and remediation rates (where available).



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## *New Report with Advance CTE Shows How State Make Career Readiness Count*

As states continue to evolve and implement their accountability and public reporting systems in 2016 and beyond, they have an opportunity to select indicators that inform continuous improvement, guide decisions about resource allocation, inform policies, capture progress, and factor into accountability determinations.



Achieve and Advance CTE have partnered to release a status update on states' use of career-ready indicators in their public reporting and accountability systems, including highlights from several states at the forefront of this work. The brief includes considerations for using the indicators, appendices that provide details on how states define the indicators they use in their public reporting and/or accountability systems (through accountability formulas and bonus points or rewards), and a glossary that defines key terms.

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## *Creating Course Pathways for Advanced Students: An Example from the NGSS*

Achieve hosted a webinar on April 21 that explored the Accelerated NGSS Model Course Pathways and how educators can think about and develop pathways that allow gifted students to go beyond the foundational standards in any content area. Presenters included:

Sean Elkins (Instructional Coach at Boone County Schools in Kentucky), Ellen Ebert (Director, Teaching and Learning Science in Washington), and Eric Koser (Science Teacher in Minnesota). A recording of the webinar and the slide deck are available [here](#).



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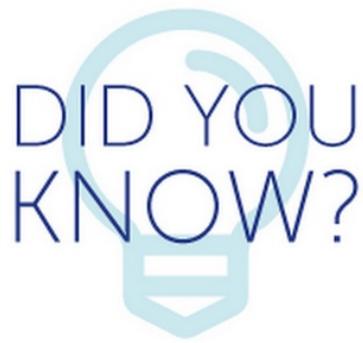
## *Former Colorado Interim Education Commissioner Elliott Asp Joins Achieve*

Elliott Asp, PhD, longtime educator and former interim Commissioner of Education for the state of Colorado, [has joined Achieve's staff](#) as a Senior Fellow. In this role, Asp will work with states to develop, enact, and sustain college- and career-ready policies and

initiatives. This includes leading Achieve's work with states on developing assessment and accountability systems and competency- based pathways that support the goal of college and career readiness for all students.

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# 34 states

publicly report and/or include career-focused indicators in their accountability systems.

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

