

Florida and The Southern Regional Education Board

This report details Florida's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for education improvement efforts in member states. Florida receives a number of general services, plus access to programs funded by grants, contracts and fees for specific services.

Leadership

SREB Board

Rick Scott, Governor
Nancy C. Detert, State Senator
Erik Fresen, State Representative
John Legg, State Senator
Joe H. Pickens, President, St. Johns River State College

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Nancy C. Detert, State Senator, Venice
Erik Fresen, State Representative, Miami
John Legg, State Senator, New Port Richey

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

Florida information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for Florida. Reports published in 2014:

Florida: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

Florida has made good progress in implementing all steps of the agenda and is **one of eight SREB states** that have passed legislation supporting parts of the readiness agenda.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

Publications

In January 2015, SREB published ***Benchmarking State Implementation of College-and Career-Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and Related Reforms***. Six reports make up the set covering 14 states: a cross-state findings report that describes trends across the states — plus five reports with detailed state profiles by topic.

Support for States

SREB's benchmarking staff provided information and support to state leaders on the implementation of standards and related reforms during fall 2014 and winter 2015.

Benchmarking staff presented on implementation of college- and career-readiness standards to SREB Board and Legislative Advisory Council members, including attendees from Florida, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting in June.

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

Representatives from the Florida Department of Education shared their experiences building and implementing evaluation systems and networked with other SREB state representatives at **SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** in Atlanta in February.

The SREB team refreshed the educator effectiveness Bill Tracker in January, which allows Florida policymakers to track bills across eight topics, including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Staff presented on educator evaluation at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meeting in December.

The team released the Elements of Evaluation interactive database in October, which allows users to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness e-newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to Florida:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Career and technical education

State Leaders' Forum

Convenes state education leaders and policymakers to consider policies for high-quality career and technical education. Co-sponsored with the State Consortium for Improving High School Career and Technical Studies.

Florida attendees at the November 2014 forum: **1**

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

Explored optional career pathway programs of study to help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's April 2015 report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems, increase postsecondary credential and degree attainment, and ensure their future economic security.

Florida members of the Commission:

Rod Duckworth, Career and Adult Education Chancellor, Florida Department of Education

John Legg, State Senator

More information: Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CTECommission

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of the 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Community College Commission

Recommended statewide strategies to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in raising educational attainment in Southern states.

Florida members of the Commission:

Randy Hanna, Former Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges

Joe H. Pickens, President, St. Johns River State College (Commission Co-chair)

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CommunityColleges

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Recommends postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

Florida members of the Commission:

Erik Fresen, State Representative

Randy Hanna, Former Chancellor, Florida College System

Joe H. Pickens, President, St. Johns River State College

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Affordability

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

SREB staff visited Florida in April 2015 to meet with legislators and staff and attend committee meetings.

Custom information by request of Florida policymakers and staff:

Staff: two-year colleges offering four-year degrees

Legislative staff: student assessment

Legislative staff: governance

Legislator: relevance of the senior year of high school

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

Literacy Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students learn the literacy skills of college- and career-readiness standards.

Teachers learn to design assignments that engage students to learn subject content while advancing reading and writing skills. SREB's innovative training starts with exemplary teachers, who then work with other teachers to help them adopt the strategies.

Florida teacher experts trained by SREB in 2014-15: **30**

Number of Florida schools: **5**

Three Florida schools are featured in a September 2014 SREB publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*, for their success in implementing the literacy strategies.

Avalon Middle School, Orlando

Hunters Creek Middle School, Orlando

Pine Forest High School, Pensacola

Mathematics Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students understand basic math concepts, become fluent with math procedures, and develop the reasoning to apply them to solve problems. MDC teachers use formative assessment lessons — a hybrid of assessment and instruction — to help students master college- and career-readiness standards. SREB's innovative training builds the capacity of lead teachers to become trainers of other teachers.

Florida teacher experts trained by SREB in 2014-15: **48**

Number of Florida schools: **6**

Pine Forest High School in Pensacola is featured for its Mathematics Design Collaboration implementation in a September 2014 SREB publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*.

More information: Dan.Mollette@SREB.org | (404) 962-9623 | SREB.org/LDCMDC

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta, July 15-18.

Florida attendees at the July 2014 conference: **37**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attend to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta July 13-15.

Florida attendees at the July 2014 conference: **43**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/1615

National Professional Development Workshops

Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for the College- and Career-Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.

Florida teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **2**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/PD

Principals

Learning-Centered Leadership Program

Works with district, state and university partners to prepare aspiring principals and school leadership teams to lead school reform to ensure that students are ready for college and careers. This program offers training, guidance and technical assistance.

Florida attendees at the 2014 Annual Leadership Forum: **4**

Florida uses Learning-Centered Leadership's online courses.

Florida Turnaround Leadership Program

SREB partnered with the Florida Department of Education, five Florida school districts and the University of North Florida in the Florida Turnaround Leadership Program; **82 educators** graduated in June. Fifty-nine participants have received promotions, including 19 who have become principals, 34 who have become assistant principals, and three who have become district office executive directors.

More information: Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org | (404) 879-5591 | SREB.org/Leadership

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

SREB Readiness Courses

Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

Florida is a member of the consortium of states established to assist in reviewing the draft courses. Florida teaches state-developed readiness and success courses.

Ready for high school

SREB is now working with states to develop courses for the transition from middle grades to high school. The courses will be available for underprepared eighth- and ninth-grade students starting in 2016-17.

Florida is a member of the consortium of states established to assist in reviewing the draft courses. Florida teaches state-developed readiness and success courses.

Florida middle school and high school teachers are participating in the development of the new courses.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

Eight Florida schools were active in the High Schools That Work state network in 2014-15.

Rod Duckworth, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education, Florida Department of Education, serves on the HSTW Board from Florida.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Contracts for Direct Support

Schools, districts and states contract with SREB for targeted school improvement services such as on-site coaching, technical assistance and professional development.

In Florida in 2014-15:

Schools that contracted with SREB for direct services through HSTW: **6**

On-site coaching days delivered to these schools: **14**

Days of on-site staff development delivered to these schools: **35**

More information: Rhenida.Rennie@SREB.org | (404) 879-5531 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

Two Florida schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Making Middle Grades Work

Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.

Florida schools that were active members of the MMGW network in 2014-15: **16**

Schools contracted with SREB for direct services through MMGW: **10**

On-site coaching days delivered to these schools: **49**

Days of on-site staff development delivered to these schools: **89**

Participating Florida schools in the 2014 MMGW Student and Teacher Surveys: **0**

The MMGW Student Survey

During 2014, one Florida school participated in the MMGW Teacher Survey or MMGW Student Survey, which measures student perceptions of school and classroom practices.

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 788-1235 | SREB.org/MMGW

Advanced Career

A new approach to career and technical education that combines college-readiness academic content with a sequence of four courses designed around hands-on, project-based assignments. The aim is to prepare more students for as many career options as possible in emerging high-demand, high-wage fields such as health informatics, and energy and power.

Two Florida high schools joined the Advanced Career network of schools. **Madison County High School** (MCHS) implemented the AC **energy and power** curriculum in fall 2014. **Baker County High School** is preparing for fall 2015 implementation of AC global logistics and supply chain management.

The AC end-of-course assessment was administered in one Florida school in spring 2015.

The March issue of *Advanced Career News* spotlighted the energy and power classroom at MCHS. An MCHS freshman enjoys the challenges presented in the course, saying, "We get to do hands-on work and work things out on our own." The MCHS principal and AC teacher see the depth of student engagement and enthusiasm, and local employers are taking notice.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/AC

Counseling for Careers

Helps students align career pathway programs of study to career goals, postsecondary studies and employment. SREB works with districts and schools so teachers, counselors, administrators, parents and community partners can advise students on career opportunities, career pathway programs of study, work-based learning experiences, postsecondary education and training opportunities.

SREB is working with the **Florida Department of Education** to research, develop and present professional development to rising administrators in the areas of teacher advisement, and education and career exploration.

In the **Madison County school district**, SREB is helping develop a school improvement project for the teacher advisement program. SREB has also provided professional development in the areas of teacher advisement, exploratory course development, and education and career exploration opportunities.

More information: Lynn.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 879-5610

Higher Education Programs and Services

Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

Academic Common Market

Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.

Florida participates in the ACM at the graduate level only.

Participating students, calendar year 2014: **40**

Florida ACM Representative:

Lynda Page, Associate Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

A Florida representative attended the 2015 Academic Common Market annual meeting webinar.

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided by Florida institutions as of April 2015: **654**

Florida EC Representatives:

Nancy McKee, Associate Vice Chancellor, Florida Board of Governors

John H. Opper, Director, Division of Distance Learning and Student Services, Florida Virtual Campus

Amanda Register, Office of Articulation, Florida Department of Education

Florida representatives attended the 2014 Electronic Campus annual meeting.

Regional Contract Program

Gives students the opportunity to earn a professional health degree from participating institutions in other states through in-state tuition rates at public institutions or reduced tuition at private institutions. SREB is fiscal agent and handles administrative duties without additional fees to the state, institutions or students. More than 700 students participate each year.

Florida institutions provide programs, making it possible for residents of other states to contract with **Florida Nova Southeastern University** for student spaces in osteopathy.

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — **SARA, or the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

Florida participates in SECRRRA.

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating Florida agencies and their 2015-16 Data Exchange Coordinators:

Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida: Terricka Washington, Database

Administrator

Department of Education Division of Florida Colleges: Scott Parke, Vice Chancellor for Research and Analytics

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

Florida leaders receive the annual **SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report**, the **SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, as well as **Florida: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, **Fact Book Bulletins** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

In Florida, nine institutions participate in the Council.

Representatives from each institution, with leadership positions in the Council:

Florida A&M University: Ruena Norman, Dean

Florida Atlantic University: Marianne Smith, Dean

Florida International University: Ora L. Strickland, Dean; Nursing Council: Carnegie Awards Committee

Florida State University: Judith Mcfetridge-Durdle, Dean

State College of Florida: Beverly Hindenlang, Dean

University of Central Florida: Jean D. Leuner, Director

University of Florida: Anna M. McDaniel, Dean

University of North Florida: Lilla Loriz, Director

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by Florida in 2014-15: **0**

2014 Institute attendees from Florida: **60**

Scholars Florida has supported since 1993: **2**

Graduates since 1993: **2**

Graduates currently employed: **2**

Percent employed in education: **50**

Florida-supported students have attended this institution since 1993:

Florida State University

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Educational Technology Cooperative

Membership group of state K-12 and higher education coordinating and governing boards representing more than 800 colleges and universities and 3,100 school districts in SREB states. The ETC focuses member agencies and state policymakers on using technology wisely, reports on educational technology topics and connects members.

Florida member agency and ETC representative for membership year 2014-15:

Florida Virtual Campus: John Opper, Director, Distance Learning and Student Services

Florida sent attendees to the 2014 annual meeting, and Florida's ETC representatives helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**. John Opper serves on the ETC Executive Committee to guide the ETC in leveraging current and future technologies for the benefit of students, instructional staff and support staff across K-20.

More information: Wanda.Barker@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EdTech

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

Florida technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$2,263,600**

More information: Camille.Martin@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1697

SREB Meetings Hosted in Florida

Go Alliance Meeting

Tampa, November 2014

Data Exchange Meeting

Tampa, November 2014

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South meeting

Naples, June 2015

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region's track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.