Maryland and
The Southern Regional Education Board

This report details Maryland'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 educational improvement efforts in member states. Maryland receives a number of general services, plus access to programs funded by grants, contracts and fees for specific services.

Leadership

SREB Board

Larry Hogan, Governor

Robert L. Caret, Chancellor, University System of Maryland

James D. Fielder, Acting Secretary of Higher Education

Jack R. Smith, Interim State Superintendent of Schools, Baltimore

Vacancy (2019)

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Sheila Ellis Hixson, State Delegate, Silver Spring

Edward J. Kasemeyer, State Senator, Arbutus

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.

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

Maryland: 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

Middle grades

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley approved legislation in April 2014 to create the **Task Force to Study How to Improve Student Achievement in Middle School**. The legislation charges the task force with reviewing SREB's A *New Mission for the Middle Grades* to "consider whether the recommendations are feasible and appropriate to implement in the state."

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.

Maryland is one of eight states that have passed legislation supporting parts of the agenda. Maryland adopted comprehensive legislation last session on transfer and college readiness. SREB leaders consulted with Maryland legislators and policymakers on this legislation and other readiness policies.

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.

The reports note Maryland as a *leading state* for standards and assessments, aligned teaching resources and professional development; and a *strong state* for leader evaluation and accountability.

Support for States
SREB convened leaders from eight SREB states — including a team from the **Maryland State Department of Education** — to share information about and resources for implementation of standards. National experts also attended the meeting in August 2014 in Atlanta.

In March 2015, SREB convened an advisory panel of representatives from nine SREB states, including a representative from the Maryland State Department of Education and colleagues from several national organizations. The panel discussed state progress in implementing standards and how SREB can ensure that the new benchmarking work continues to be helpful to leaders in the 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 Maryland, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting in June.

- Legislative and governors' staff, including attendees from Maryland, in October 2014.

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.

A **fact sheet for Maryland** includes population trends, state and federal policies, and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

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 Maryland Department of Education c**o-presented recent findings on classroom observations** with members of the SREB educator effectiveness team during the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness meeting held by the Council of Chief State School Officers in Atlanta in April.

Staff facilitated several breakout sessions during the March Advisory Meeting for the SREB Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards project.

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

Representatives from the Maryland Department of Education attended the Equitable Access to Excellent Teachers and Leaders meeting in San Diego, during which the SREB educator effectiveness team presented information on state equity plans in February.

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

Staff provided expertise to the Maryland State Education Association during a panel discussion in December.

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

Staff provided expertise to the Maryland officials who attended the Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards meeting in August.

Throughout the year, staff provided technical assistance to **Maryland State Department of Education** staff who are leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

The team released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October, which allows Maryland policymakers 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 Maryland:

- 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

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

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

The Commission's final 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.

Maryland members of the Commission:
Norman Conway, Former State Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education

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

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015 and will publish its report later in 2015.

Maryland members of the Commission:
Norman Conway, Former State Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
Rolf Grafwallner, Assistant State Superintendent for Early Childhood Development,
   State Department of Education
Catherine Shultz, Acting Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EarlyLearning

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

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

Maryland member of the Commission:
Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Colleges

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.

Maryland members of the Commission:
Norman Conway, Former State Delegate
Catherine M. Shultz, Former Acting Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission
Sheila Ellis Hixson, State Delegate
Lillian Lowery, Superintendent of Schools, Maryland State Department of Education

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 Maryland to meet with legislators and staff and attended committee meetings in March 2015.

Custom information by request of Maryland policymakers:
Legislator: students self-medicating for diabetes
Legislator: local education governance

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

Professional Development for
Teachers, Principals and Counselors

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.

Maryland attendees at the July 2014 conference: **27**

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. This year's conference will be held in Atlanta, July 13-15.

Maryland attendees at the July 2014 conference: **6**

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

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.

Maryland attendees at the 2015 annual Leadership Forum: **1**

More information: Jon.SchmidtDavis@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.

Maryland joined the consortium of states in 2013 to explore the SREB Readiness 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. Middle and high school teachers from Maryland are participating in the development of the new coures.

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.

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

HSTW State Network

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

In Maryland, no schools were active members of the HSTW network in 2014-15.

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 Maryland, no schools contracted with SREB for direct services through HSTW in 2014-15.

More information: Cindy.Vanburen@SREB.org | (803) 984-5986 | 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 schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment in Maryland.

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 879-5611 | 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.

Ten Maryland schools were active in the MMGW network in 2014-15.

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

National Research Center for Career and Technical Education

Provides policy and practice solutions to challenges facing career and technical education today, including engaging students in school; improving academic and technical achievement; and better transitioning high school students to college and careers.

Five schools in Prince George's County received professional development through the Center's Math-in-CTE program.

More information: James.Stone@SREB.org | (502) 322-6260

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.

Participating Maryland students, calendar year 2014: **194**

Maryland ACM Representative:
Monica Wheatley, Education Policy Analyst, Maryland Higher Education Commission

A Maryland 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 Maryland institutions as of April 2015: **136**

Maryland EC Representative:
Monica Wheatley, Education Policy Analyst, Maryland Higher Education Commission

A Maryland representative attended the 2014 Electronic Campus annual meeting.

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 SECRRA. 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.*

Maryland participates in SECRRA and has passed SARA legislation. Maryland will have a representative on the SREB SARA Steering Committee.

Maryland SARA Representative:

Shawna Acker-Ball, Director of Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission

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 agency and 2015-16 Data Exchange Coordinator:

Maryland Higher Education Commission: Jon Enriquez, Associate Director of Research and Policy Analysis

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.

Maryland leaders receive the annual **SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report**, the **SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, as well as **Maryland: 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 Maryland, **four institutions** participate in the Council.

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

Johns Hopkins University: Patricia M. Davidson, Dean

Towson University: Kathleen T. Ogle, Chairperson

University of Maryland at Baltimore: Jane Kirsching, Dean

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 Maryland in 2014-15: **1**
2014 Institute attendees from Maryland: **60**
Scholars Maryland has supported since joining in 1997: **42**
Graduates since 1997: **29**
Graduates currently employed: **25**
Percent employed in education: **76**

Maryland-supported students have attended these institutions since 1997:
> Johns Hopkins University
> University of Maryland-Baltimore
> University of Maryland-Baltimore County
> University of Maryland-College Park

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.

Maryland member agency and representative for the membership year 2014-15:
Maryland Higher Education Commission: Natalie Lopez, Online Education Analyst

Maryland's ETC representative helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**.

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.

Maryland technology purchases, FY 2014: **$948,300**

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

Go Alliance

An interstate cooperative to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school, and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. Go Alliance research, services and professional development focus on college access policy and communications strategies to motivate students to plan for and apply to college.

Maryland participates in Go Alliance.

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/GoAlliance

*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.*