State of the States Report

Stephen Pruitt, SREB President
Leading in quality + expanding access

Alabama’s state-funded pre-K program was 1 of 3 in the U.S. to meet all 10 quality standards in the latest National Institute for Early Education Research report.
Happy 70th!
Sharing uncommon health degrees

In 1949, Alabama Polytechnic, Tuskegee and UGA pioneered SREB’s first collaborative program by agreeing to share expensive medicine, dentistry and vet med programs.
Reinvented
A Quest to support principals

Training at regional cooperatives, supported by online networking and coaching: Arkansas Quest could be a model for leader-centered professional learning.
Computer science in every high school

A governor’s leadership, bipartisan funding support from legislators, business partnerships and dedicated teachers have made Arkansas a national leader.
“Equitable access: Every student in Delaware should have the same opportunity to be taught by a great teacher who is supported by a great leader.”
State responsibility, local control

*Districts can apply for state funds for school security measures, including an app that lets school staff report emergencies quickly to save first responders time.*
A clear path to economic mobility

*Miami Dade College and Indian River State College won this year’s Aspen prize for their success with low-income, first-generation and rural students.*
Ready

What does career-ready truly mean?

*The Florida Students First coalition convened a wide range of shareholders to define career-ready for a smooth transition to the workforce.*
Networked
Pooling leadership in rural districts

Georgia’s Department of Education is focusing on rural schools from AP to entrepreneurship to STEM. Georgia has the nation’s 3rd largest rural population.
Early ID, intervention matter

Georgia enacted new dyslexia policies this year: a 3-year screening and intervention pilot, plus awareness training and a dyslexia endorsement for teachers.
Deliberate
Listening statewide leads to action

After a school shooting, Kentucky’s legislature held listening sessions statewide. The result of the thoughtful, collaborative approach: a unanimous vote on SB1.
Uniting education, workforce data for decision-making

KYSTATS links data to inform decisions about education and the workforce. One use: leveraging funding under ESSA, Perkins V and WIOA.
Advanced college access for all

A Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force, created by the legislature, will bring access to dual enrollment courses for every qualified high school junior and senior.
Aspiring elementary teachers in Louisiana must meet the strongest licensure requirements in the region for how much math they take in college.
Courage
A blueprint for Maryland’s future

The Kirwan Commission called for sweeping reform, expanding pre-K and CTE, addressing poverty and more. The legislature has begun to fund it, with $700M this year.
More success. Less debt.

Maryland is ahead of target to meet its 2025 goal of 55% of the population with an associate degree or higher. The latest figures show the state at 51.4%.
Building on momentum

With a focus on early literacy, Mississippi led the nation in improving elementary achievement. Now the state focuses on moving that momentum into the middle grades.
Stronger
Outpacing on credentials

Moving from 37.5% to 40.9%, Mississippi notched the nation’s largest percentage point gain in postsecondary attainment in the 2019 A Stronger Nation report.
At the table
Addressing quality and quantity

Tackling tough issues around teacher quality and shortages, the NC Education Human Capital Roundtable brings together the parties that prep, certify, hire and nurture teachers.
$4 million saved through collaboration

North Carolina saved $4 million — the most in the SREB region — on over $40 million in tech buying through collaborative purchasing agreements.
Promise kept
Scholarship program meets goals

Oklahoma’s Promise is “an example of how a state can invest valuable resources in its students and see a strong return on that investment.”
Engaging educators on PD

Oklahoma convened stakeholder advisory groups across the state. Focus groups show educators now trust OSDE and are very pleased with the new professional learning focus measure.
Success!

A new evaluation system takes root.

“The system redesign and rollout has been well-planned, well-researched and well-supported by a passionate team.”
High school to postsecondary

Connecting schools and colleges

Legislation calls for a statewide articulation agreement so all public schools and colleges can develop seamless dual enrollment opportunities.
Report card
Tracking progress on priorities

The online Teacher Preparation Report Card profiles educator prep programs and their effectiveness, including impact on student outcomes.
Access for high school grads + adults

Tennessee Promise provides financial aid and pairs high school students with mentors. Tennessee Reconnect supports adults going back to college.
Texas appropriated more funding for students identified with dyslexia. The state has required screening and intervention since 1985.
Texas

Online programs

Millions saved. More options. Less hassle

With the most institutions in SARA, Texas saved $20 million in state authorization for online college programs from 2015 to 2019.
Opportunity
Pathways and partnerships

With 10+ bills this session, the General Assembly covered community colleges, service learning, rural IT, computer science and a fund to expand internships.
Faculty diversity

Commitment to changing the face of higher ed

Virginia has funded 146 students in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program, including 28 this year. These scholars finish faster, saving up to $120,000 per graduate.
No boundaries

Engaging students in career pathways

Districts now need to integrate school improvement for middle grades, high schools and technology centers. West Virginia is the region’s leader in Advanced Career programs.
Prioritizing teacher quality, instruction

A two-pronged approach in West Virginia: Certify more teachers with math content knowledge. And give them powerful practices to teach math.
The coming year

Education issues to watch

School safety and climate
School finance (and aligning it with education priorities)
Building the education-to-jobs pathway
Preparing and retaining effective teachers