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SREB states make progress in education

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Maryland Shows Gains in Education Outcomes, Policy

High School Graduation Rate Exceeded the Nation

Atlanta, Georgia — July 12, 2016 — Maryland continues to improve public education by several key measures, according to a new report from the Southern Regional Education Board.

[**Gauging Progress, Accelerating Pace**](#) reports on recent growth on outcomes and policy activity in the SREB region. The reports show the 16-state SREB region leading the nation on early childhood education access and quality, narrowing some achievement gaps between racial and ethnic groups, and surpassing the national average for high school graduation rates. Yet the report's demographic and student achievement data foreshadow the difficult job states face: getting more students college- and career-ready so they can become successful adults and states can meet their future workforce needs.

This report focuses on the region's progress — and on determining what it will take to help each state accelerate pace.

Notable outcomes for Maryland students

- Fourth-graders outperformed the nation in reading and math achievement on NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) at the Proficient level.
- Eighth-graders outperformed the nation in reading and math achievement on NAEP at the Proficient level.
- Maryland's high school graduation rate exceeded the rates for the nation and for the region.
- The six-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshmen who entered public, four-year colleges and universities topped the national and regional rates.
- The percentage of working-age adults with an associate degree or higher topped the national rate.

Strong policy in Maryland

- The state's learning standards are aligned from birth through grade 12. It is the only state in the region to have early learning standards for children from birth through age 8.
- The state is one of 10 in the nation — all in the SREB region — that require school districts to offer full-day kindergarten programs.
- The state has career-academic and readiness standards for career and technical education completers.

"Higher graduation rates are great news for Maryland and other states," said SREB President Dave Spence.

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the skills they need.”

[Maryland: Gauging Progress, Accelerating Pace](#) details:

- state demographic and income trends
- student achievement from pre-K through postsecondary
- priorities for teacher evaluation and educational technology

SREB monitors progress of its 16 states on the SREB Challenge to Lead Goals for Education adopted by state leaders to help the region lead the nation in educational progress at all levels.

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The Southern Regional Education Board works with 16 member states to improve public education: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. Based in Atlanta, SREB was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislatures to help leaders in education and government advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region.

Media contacts

[Matia Edwards](#), SREB Communications

404.879.5532

[Beth Day](#), SREB Communications

404.879.5544

770.315.2041



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SREBComm 592 10th St., NW Atlanta, GA 30318 USA