SREB Report

ESSA = Opportunity to Refine Evaluation Systems

How will states respond to increased responsibility for teacher evaluation systems under the Every Student Succeeds Act? In State Actions to Advance Teacher Evaluation, SREB identifies 10 areas where state agencies can continue refining their systems and make full use evaluation data to improve teaching.

States should consider shifting emphasis from classroom observation procedures to conversations and feedback quality, the new report says. States should also consider adjusting how student growth measures are incorporated, so that these elements do not undermine educators' trust in the system as a whole.

SREB's educator effectiveness team provides consultation and technical assistance for individual states, conducts on-the-ground research to understand implementation, and cultivates a network for state leaders to learn from peers working toward the same goal. Contact SREB Vice President for Educator Effectiveness Andy Baxter.
More Affordable, Accessible Health Degrees

SREB’s Regional Contract Program helps students earn specialized, professional health degrees at lower costs. Residents of participating states can attend neighboring-state programs in dentistry, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, podiatry and veterinary medicine.

At public institutions, students pay in-state tuition rates; at private institutions, they pay reduced tuition. States save the high costs of creating their own specialized health programs. More than 700 students participate each year.

In 2014-2015, for example, UGA received more than $2 million when 77 students from other SREB states contracted with the University of Georgia’s veterinary medicine program, Georgia residents, in turn, have access to optometry programs at the Southern College of Optometry in Tennessee and the University of Alabama.

See how your state participates at SREB.org/RCP>
"When children start school behind their peers, and later drop out or fail to live up to their potential, we have to clean up the mess, paying for incarceration, health care and other costs," writes Delaware Senator Gary Simpson, a member of the SREB Early Childhood Commission. "I think we can cut some of these problems off at the pass."

About 2,500 students participate each year. In Delaware this year, for example, 94 students have saved more than $1.2 million in tuition.

Mississippi also improved faster than the U.S. on fourth-grade math for the same time period. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is known as "The Nation's Report Card." NAEP results are comparable by state. For more on reading and math results, visit NAEP.com.
Policy & Practice brings you news about improving education across the continuum, early childhood through doctoral education, in SREB states. Contact us with questions and suggestions.

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