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SREB states make progress in education

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Tennessee Shows Gains in Education Outcomes, Policy

High School Graduation Rate Exceeded Nation

Atlanta, Georgia — July 12, 2016 — Tennessee 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 Tennessee students

- Fourth-graders *led* the region and nation in gains in reading and math achievement on NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) at the Proficient level. They *outperformed* the nation in math at the Proficient level.
- Eighth-graders *led* the region and nation in gains in reading and math achievement on NAEP at the Proficient level. They *matched* the nation in reading at the Proficient level.
- Tennessee's high school graduation rate exceeded the rates for the nation and the region.
- The percentage of students with disabilities who graduated with standard diplomas exceeded that of the respective peer group nationwide.
- The first-year persistence rate, the percentage of college freshmen who return for a second year, increased.

Strong policy in Tennessee

- The state's learning standards are aligned from birth through grade 12.
- The state has led the region in implementing a comprehensive teacher evaluation model.
- The state requires readiness courses for high school students who do not meet its college- and career-readiness cut scores in math or reading.

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

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being sure students have the skills they need.”

[Tennessee: 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.

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