



July 2019

## SECC College- and Career-Readiness Standards & Assessment E-Newsletter

### Current Research/Resources

#### High-Quality Curriculum and System Improvement

Learning First and Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy collaborated on this [report](#), which investigates the role that a content-rich, standards aligned curriculum plays in improving student learning outcomes, equity, and school improvement. This analysis, targeted at state education staff, provides a review of current approaches to curriculum development, implementation, and implications in both the United States and Australia.

[Read more](#)

#### Opportunities and Responsibilities for State and Local Report Cards Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The U.S. Department of Education's [draft document of non-regulatory guidance](#) provides updated direction regarding state and local report card requirements under ESSA. It offers guidance and recommendations for state and local education agency staff in the areas listed below. In addition, Appendix A includes sample charts and checklists for report card elements.

[Read more](#)

#### The Unintended Consequences for English Learners of Using the Four-Year Graduation Rate for School Accountability

The Migration Policy Institute published this [report](#) to provide state education agency staff with the opportunity to evaluate the efficacy of including English learners (ELs) in the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) as part of the state accountability benchmarks and to shed light on the unintended consequences of such a policy. The author argues that using the four-year ACGR for ELs unfairly characterizes student and school performance, since ELs are more likely to graduate from high school in their fifth or sixth year.

[Read more](#)

## ESSA Updates

### State Responsibilities and Opportunities for School Improvement Under the Every Student Succeeds Act

This [policy study](#), compiled by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Policy Studies Associates, provides comprehensive information to state education agency (SEA) staff on how to implement goals for school improvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). It includes examples, resources, and information to guide and support school improvement efforts. The authors identify seven domains of SEA responsibility related to ESSA school improvement:

- Support of local needs assessment and data use for school improvement
- Support of local education agencies' (LEAs) use of funds for school improvement
- Development and delivery of technical assistance to LEAs on school improvement
- Strengthening school leadership as a strategy for school improvement
- Development of a process to monitor school improvement
- Development of guidance and approval processes for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school plans
- Support of LEA engagement of stakeholders around school improvement

The authors point out that a state's progress in operationalizing, developing, and refining its systems of support for school improvement can be supplemented by focusing more heavily on identifying root causes, implementing evidence-based practices, and providing high-quality technical assistance. An extensive appendix, which is organized by the seven domains of responsibility, provides SEA staff with a variety of resources relevant to school improvement.

## Upcoming Events

### WIDA Annual Conference: Teaching for Equity in a Multilingual World

**Date:** October 15–18, 2019

**Location:** Providence, Rhode Island

**Description:** The WIDA conference is designed for teachers of preK through 12th grade English language learners from around the world to examine evidenced-based strategies and practices in teaching for equity in a multilingual world. [Event registration](#)

### iNACOL Symposium: Shining a Light on the Future of Learning

**Date:** October 28–31, 2019

**Location:** Palm Springs, California

**Description:** This symposium brings together policymakers, experts, and practitioners to discuss the trends in personalized, competency-based learning. [Event registration](#)

### ASCD Conference on Educational Leadership: Resilient Schools in Action

**Date:** November 8–10, 2019

**Location:** National Harbor, Maryland

**Description:** This conference offers school leaders sessions that provide practical solutions that address classroom, school, and systemwide priorities. [Event registration](#)

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