Heads Up on Education Issues

January 2010

*Heads Up* comes to you as a complimentary service from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Some pieces we’ve produced. But we’ve also reviewed many other recent reports for you and selected these as relevant and reflective of information you can trust.

If there’s something you’d like to recommend for the next issue, please let us know.

**Charter Schools**

A new database from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools ranks each state according to the 20 components the Alliance laid out in a model policy they developed in 2009. [http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws](http://www.publiccharters.org/charterlaws)


**Data Systems**

New state-by-state survey results are available from the Data Quality Campaign. (ECS and NCSL are managing partners of the Data Quality Campaign.)

*In this inaugural overview*, DQC reveals that states are just beginning to take the necessary steps vital to using longitudinal data for continuous improvement. The majority of states (43) have implemented three or fewer of the DQC State Actions.

Move on with DQC to the next phase, *Improving Student Success*.

**Economic Development**

The Alliance for Education Excellence finds that the best economic stimulus is a high school diploma. The study finds that lowering the high school dropout rate boosts job creation, home ownership, automobile sales and economic growth.

**Postsecondary**

*REMEDICATION AND POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS* - ECS invites you to join an online jam focusing on: (1) How states can more effectively use data to inform policymakers and the broader public on the impact that remedial education has on the college success; and (2) How states can use data to evaluate and continuously improve state and system strategies to serve students who require remedial education. The Jam will take place February 9 from 12:00-7:00 pm eastern time. For more information or to register, e-mail: GPG@ecs.org
**EQUITY** - A report from the Education Trust examines the job that flagship universities in the states are doing in providing support to low-income and minority students. The report provides an accounting of their performance and progress in providing excellence to students who cannot afford high-quality private institutions.


**State Policy Tracking**

For a look at what passed (or was vetoed) last year across the states, [click here](#).

For a look at what has passed so far this year, [click here](#).

**Student Achievement**

A new report from Education Sector, College-And Career-Ready: Using Outcomes Data to Hold High Schools Accountable for Student Success, finds that adequate yearly progress—the measure of high school performance as defined under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act—is not a very good indicator of how high school graduates will fare in college and careers. Using examples from several states, the report shows the limitations of relying only on standardized tests and graduation rates.

**Teaching Quality**

The annual report from the National Council on Teacher Quality paints a grim picture of how states handle everything from pay to discipline for public school teachers. In fact, even the top scoring state, Florida, received a C, with most states getting Ds or Fs.

[Click here](#) for the collection of all ECS StateNotes, Policy Briefs, ECS Alerts and Idea Papers that were released in 2009.

If you have questions or comments about "Heads Up on Education Issues" please contact Melodye Bush at ECS.

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