All of the 2018 Legislative Conference materials are available at: www.eventmobi.com/legcon2018

Do you know how to connect with us?

CCSSO
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-1431
www.ccsso.org
By Phone: 202.336.7000

Join the Conversation.
Follow @CCSSO on Twitter
#StatesLeading

Wifi network:
SSID/Network: HILTON_MEETINGS
Password: CCSSO
### SECTION 1 – CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

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<td>Welcome Letter</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>General Information</td>
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<td>Conference Map</td>
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<td>CCSSO Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>Leading for Equity</td>
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### SECTION 2 – AGENDA

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Agenda Overview</td>
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### SECTION 3 – CAPITOL HILL

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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>U.S. Capitol Hill Map</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>U.S. Capitol Hill Lunch Options</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SECTION 4 – MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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<td>21</td>
<td>2018 Board of Directors</td>
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### SECTION 5 – NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2018

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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Meet the Finalists for National Teacher of the Year 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### SECTION 6 – MEETING PARTICIPANTS

<table>
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<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>SEA Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Invited Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SECTION 7 – PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Partners</td>
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### SECTION 8 – UPCOMING MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Upcoming Meetings</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the 2018 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. We are honored to lead the organization of state leaders that are taking steps to ensure that all students receive the right educational resources at the right moment in their education.

In just one year, we have witnessed promising practices, innovative efforts, and valuable collaborations to create more equitable outcomes for all kids. Chiefs have made notable progress to take the lead to revamp approaches to school improvement, reallocate funding to make sure equity is a focus within their SEAs, increase transparency to families and community partners, and promote inclusive practices at all levels. In addition, we are seeing states align professional development for early childhood educators, tackle chronic absenteeism, provide a variety of educational choices, and many other examples found in the States Leading for Equity: Promising Practices Advancing the Equity Commitments report. These promising practices show we are on the right path to ensure a brighter future for our nation’s students.

State leaders will have the opportunity to explore state leadership in early childhood, define what career readiness means, continue to foster partnerships with stakeholders and local education agencies (LEA), and receive guidance on equitable implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) during this Legislative Conference. Conference highlights include:

- Pre-sessions with members of state education agencies (SEA) to participate in role-alike meetings on Sunday;
- Opening dinner keynote address by presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin;
- The State of the States address by CCSSO Board President and Mississippi State Superintendent Carey M. Wright on Monday;
- Discussions on specific state actions around early childhood education, advancing equity, state to local partnerships;
- Breakout sessions aligned to CCSSO’s advocacy priorities and programmatic efforts from financial transparency and diversifying the teacher pipeline to innovative assessments;
- Dialogue with House and Senate Leadership on Capitol Hill on Tuesday;
- Networking opportunities with peers.

This week, we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to witness examples of how states are leading and making progress on their commitment to advancing equity and how we will continue to work together to make a collective impact at the national level for the changes we want to see in education. Thank you for your participation in the 2018 Legislative Conference, and we look forward to collaborating and networking with you.

Sincerely,

Carissa Moffat Miller
Interim Executive Director
The Council of Chief State School Officers

Carey M. Wright
Superintendent of Education
Mississippi Department of Education
President of CCSSO Board of Directors
Conference Facilities

Capital Hilton Hotel
1001 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-393-1000

Minor first aid
Go to CCSSO's Registration Area

Fire & Police – 911

Nearest Hospital for Emergencies
George Washington University Hospital
900 23rd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
202.715.4000

Nearest “walk-in” clinic
Unity Health Care
1900 Massachusetts Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.279.1800

Nearest 24-hour pharmacy
CVS Pharmacy 24 Hours
1199 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202.785.1466

CCSSO Office
Please visit the Registration Table on the second floor lobby to register for the meeting or receive assistance from CCSSO staff.

If An Emergency Occurs

1. Remain calm.
2. Contact the hotel operator.
3. Report the location of the emergency.
4. Calmly explain the nature of the emergency.
5. Give your name, say you are with CCSSO, give a phone number at your location if available.
6. Wait for direction from security.
7. Please allow operator to hang up first.
8. If safe, wait for emergency personnel to arrive, direct them to the emergency, only give assistance if requested by emergency personnel.
9. As soon as possible, report the emergency to the CCSSO Staff Office.

Evacuation Procedures

1. Remain calm. Leave your location immediately. Do not pack; it wastes valuable time.
2. Do not use elevators or escalators.
3. Assist any who may need help: elderly, injured, disabled.
4. However, do not loiter or wait for others.
5. Listen for further instructions via the hotel PA system or security personnel.
6. Watch for incoming emergency personnel—do not try to assist them unless requested to do so.
7. Proceed directly to the designated relocation area.
8. Do not try to re-enter the hotel for any reason.
9. You will receive directions from emergency services or hotel staff for proceeding to safe areas.

Disclaimer: The ideas and opinions expressed in the meeting presentations and in any handout materials provided are those of the respective presenter. They are not those of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) nor can any endorsement by CCSSO be claimed. Council staff is excluded from this disclaimer.
2017-2020 Strategic Plan

Overview

State education agencies (SEAs), and those who lead them, play a critical role in ensuring that our schools and educators meet the needs of each student they serve. State chiefs are committed to ensuring that each child—across every background—graduates ready for college, a career, and life.

State education chiefs are taking actions each and every day to ensure that all children, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background, and/or family income, have access to the educational resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education.

Leading for Equity: Opportunities for State Education Chiefs articulates the clear commitments chiefs have made to advance equity, and the Council’s 2017–2020 Strategic Plan provides a roadmap to keeping those promises.

Chiefs bring together diverse stakeholders to pursue high-quality educational opportunities to improve learning outcomes for all students. As the national, nonpartisan organization representing all state chiefs, CCSSO is committed to this work in service of chiefs, their agencies, and children across the nation.

The 2017–2020 CCSSO Strategic Plan focuses on:

1. **Students:** Each student deserves an education that prepares him or her for lifelong learning and success in the world today. Therefore, CCSSO supports states as they
   a. Implement college- and career-ready (CCR) standards
   b. Ensure each student benefits from CCR expectations
   c. Implement assessment systems
   d. Leverage accountability systems

2. **Critical Student Transitions:** Each student deserves to access and experience a high-quality education, from the earliest years through postsecondary education. Therefore, CCSSO supports states as they
   a. Manage transitions into K-12
   b. Provide multiple pathways within K-12
   c. Ensure students are career-ready
   d. Promote seamless transitions to post-secondary education

3. **Teachers:** Each student deserves great teaching and great teachers. Therefore, CCSSO supports states as they
   a. Build a diverse pipeline
   b. Support teachers to improve practice
   c. Recognize and engage teachers

4. **School and District Leaders:** Each student deserves strong school and district leadership. Therefore, CCSSO supports states as they
   a. Elevate and support school leaders
   b. Deploy strategies to improve struggling schools
   c. Implement continuous improvement models
   d. Provide choice and options

5. **State Leaders:** Each student deserves effective and responsive state leadership dedicated to improving outcomes for the community, state, and nation. Therefore, CCSSO focuses on
   a. Chief and SEA leadership
   b. Collective action
   c. Advocacy
   d. Communications
   e. Federal funding

6. **Our Organization:** State chiefs deserve an organization that is committed to modeling equity from within and supporting their work to advance equitable opportunities for all students. To support chiefs in accomplishing these goals, CCSSO is committed to embodying the behaviors and practices we hope to see in states and in the K-12 system at large. This means being an effective organization that puts equity front and center—both in our own internal operations and in the way we prioritize our work.

Educational equity means that all students have access to the educational resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education across race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background, and/or family income.
Leading for Equity: Opportunities for State Education Chiefs

Leading for Equity outlines 10 commitments state chiefs and their state education agencies can make to advance educational equity for all students, regardless of background.

Why does educational equity matter?
Every student deserves an education that prepares him or her for lifelong learning and success in the world today. Educational equity means that every student has access to the resources and educational rigor they need at the right moment in their education, regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, family background, or income. If we are successful in driving greater educational equity, we all gain from the shared economic growth and civic engagement.

What can state education leaders do?
State education chiefs are uniquely positioned to lead their state toward achieving educational equity. Leading for Equity articulates specific actions state education leaders can take to accomplish each commitment.

1. **Prioritize Equity**: Set and Communicate an Equity Vision and Measurable Targets
2. **Start from Within**: Focus on the State Education Agency
3. **Measure What Matters**: Create Accountability for Equity
4. **Go Local**: Engage Local Education Agencies to Provide Tailored and Differentiated Support
5. **Follow the Money**: Allocate Resources to Achieve Fiscal Equity
6. **Start Early**: Invest in the Youngest Learners
7. **Engage More Deeply**: Monitor Equitable Implementation of Standards and Assessments
8. **Value People**: Focus on Teachers and Leaders
9. **Improve Conditions for Learning**: Focus on School Culture, Climate, and Social-Emotional Development
10. **Empower Student Options**: Ensure Families Have Access to High-Quality Educational Options that Align to Community Needs

For more information, visit [www.ccsso.org/equity](http://www.ccsso.org/equity).
**States Leading**

This year’s Legislative Conference will focus on state leadership on delivering on equitable educational opportunities and outcomes for all students.

This meeting will connect members to national education leaders, including members of the 115th U.S. Congress to continue collaboration for strong state leadership in education. Sessions throughout the meeting will also focus on state leadership in early childhood, career readiness, partnering with stakeholders and local education leaders, and equitable implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
<td>Stateroom Foyer</td>
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Please register at the CCSSO desk in the second floor lobby. CCSSO staff will also be available throughout the day to address any questions.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>New Chiefs Orientation</td>
<td>Pan American Room</td>
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</table>

New chiefs are invited to attend an orientation to meet with senior CCSSO leadership, former chiefs and one another. This orientation will draw on CCSSO’s Leadership Playbook and New Chiefs Guide to support chiefs in their new roles. It will be an opportunity for new chiefs to share priorities, reflect on their own leadership, and engage in small-group discussion on the opportunities and challenges unique to the chief role. Lunch will be provided from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and formal programming will begin at 1:00 p.m.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>New Chiefs Dinner</td>
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All new chiefs are invited to an informal dinner at a nearby restaurant.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
<td>Capital Terrace</td>
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</table>

Please register at the CCSSO desk in the second floor lobby. CCSSO staff will also be available throughout the day to address any questions.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>CCSSO Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>South American Room</td>
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The CCSSO Board of Directors will meet with the CCSSO senior leadership team to discuss the CCSSO budget, implementation of the strategic plan, and the key policies and activities of the organization. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Federal Update Lunch (SEA Members Only)</td>
<td>Congressional Room</td>
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**Peter Zamora**, Director of Federal Relations, CCSSO

All state education agency members, including chiefs, deputies, federal liaisons, and communications directors, are invited to attend a buffet lunch to discuss federal updates.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>New Skills for Youth Chiefs Working Lunch <em>(Invite Only)</em></td>
<td>California Room</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chiefs whose states are part of the New Skills for Youth Initiative are invited to attend a lunch and conversation to discuss state progress on the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Chief Roundtable Discussions</td>
<td>Senate Room</td>
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<td>Chiefs are invited to attend two discussions hosted by the CCSSO Leadership Academy.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Rethinking Funding Streams To Support Your Goals</td>
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<td><em>(1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)</em></td>
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<td>Chiefs are invited to join CCSSO’s Director of Federal Relations Peter Zamora <em>(<a href="mailto:Peter.Zamora@ccsso.org">Peter.Zamora@ccsso.org</a>)</em> and colleagues for a discussion on aligning federal funding streams with chiefs’ policy goals and how to structure and lead your agency to ensure more effective and equitable uses of limited fiscal resources.</td>
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<td>2. Building a Legislative Agenda</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>(2:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chiefs are invited to join CCSSO’s Interim Deputy Executive Director, Steve Bowen <em>(<a href="mailto:Stephen.Bowen@ccsso.org">Stephen.Bowen@ccsso.org</a>)</em> and colleagues for a discussion on best practices and ideas for building a proactive legislative agenda.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Trends in State ESSA Plans</td>
<td>Congressional Room</td>
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<td>Deputies and Federal Liaisons are invited to remain in the Congressional Room following the federal update for a review of trends in state ESSA plans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Deputies Meeting</td>
<td>Federal A Room</td>
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<td>All state deputies are invited to attend a meeting to learn from one another.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Federal Liaisons Meeting</td>
<td>Pan American Room</td>
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<tr>
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<td>All state federal liaisons are invited to attend a meeting to learn from one another.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>States Leading: All SEA Session</td>
<td>Federal AB Room</td>
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<td>All state education agency (SEA) members (chiefs, deputies, federal liaisons, communication directors, etc.) are invited to a session to discuss CCSSO’s commitment to supporting and highlighting state leadership on advancing the equity commitments, including how states are leveraging ESSA to meet the needs of all students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Reception</td>
<td>Congressional and Senate Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All participants in the Legislative Conference are invited to attend an opening welcome reception. Please note that CCSSO will be joined for this reception and dinner by the attendees of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference.</td>
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</table>
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  Opening Dinner

*Presidential Ballroom*

**Welcome to Washington, D.C.**

Carissa Miller, Interim Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)

Kris Amundson, President and CEO, National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)

**National Anthem**

Bernard Myers, Student, McKinley Technology High School, Washington D.C.

**Opening Remarks**

Carey M. Wright, Superintendent of Education, Mississippi and CCSSO Board President

John Kelly, State Board Member, Mississippi and NASBE Board President

**Keynote Introduction**

Ryan Wise, Director of Education, Iowa

**Evening Keynote**

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Presidential Historian, Public Speaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author

Doris Kearns Goodwin is an author of six critically acclaimed and *New York Times* best-selling books and historian known for her highly regarded studies of American presidents. Among her many honors and awards, Goodwin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II* in 1995. Goodwin is also well known for her appearances and commentary on television networks and late night talk shows.

⚠️ Thank you for not tweeting or posting to social media during this keynote presentation.

8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  Chiefs Meet and Greet

*Senate Room*

CCSSO chiefs are invited to a private meet and greet with Doris Kearns Goodwin.
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018: ALL SESSIONS AT THE CAPITAL HILTON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
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<td><strong>Capital Terrace</strong></td>
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<td>Please register to pick up a meeting badge and materials at the CCSSO desk in the second floor lobby. CCSSO staff will also be available throughout the day to address any questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Chiefs-Only Breakfast</td>
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<td><strong>South American Room</strong></td>
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<td>All chiefs attending are invited to a breakfast for discussion and networking. Deputies attending the Legislative Conference on behalf of their chief may join as well.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Communications Directors Breakfast</td>
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<td><strong>Continental Room</strong></td>
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<td>All communications directors are invited to attend a discussion over breakfast with peers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Networking Breakfast</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Congressional and Senate Room</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Session: State of the States</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Presidential Ballroom</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Carey M. Wright</strong>, Superintendent of Education, Mississippi and CCSSO Board President</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carey Wright will provide an annual assessment of the current education landscape and how states are leading to advance equity for all students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>State Actions to Advance Equity in ESSA Implementation</td>
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<td><strong>Presidential Ballroom</strong></td>
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<td>Moderator</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Carissa Miller</strong>, Interim Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Panelists</td>
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<td><strong>Jillian Balow</strong>, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wyoming</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Pam Stewart</strong>, Commissioner of Education, Florida</td>
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<td>A year after the release of the ten equity commitments outlined in CCSSO and the Aspen Institute’s Leading for Equity: Opportunity for State Chiefs, states continue to advance bold, innovative and ambitious work to improve educational outcomes for all students. State chiefs will discuss how they are incorporating feedback from local stakeholders and making use of the flexibility provided in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to advance equity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Capital Terrace Foyer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | State Spotlight on Early Childhood Education  
  *Presidential Ballroom*  
  Introduction  
  Carey M. Wright, Superintendent of Education, Mississippi and CCSSO Board President  
  Mississippi Superintendent and CCSSO Board President Carey M. Wright is committed to ensuring every child has access to a high-quality early childhood education before they enter kindergarten. This video captures how she and her state agency have taken the lead to bring public and private early childhood providers to the table and work closely together to improve education for Mississippi’s youngest learners. |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Making the Case and States Taking Action: Early Childhood Education  
  *Presidential Ballroom*  
  Opening Remarks  
  Craig Ramey, Professor and Distinguished Research Scholar, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute  
  Discussants  
  Carey M. Wright, Superintendent of Education, Mississippi and CCSSO Board President  
  Joy Hofmeister, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma  
  Hanseul Kang, Superintendent of Education, District of Columbia  
  As part of Superintendent Carey Wright’s Presidential Platform, CCSSO is working with states on prioritizing equity commitment #6 “Invest in the Youngest Learners” from *Leading for Equity: Opportunities for State Education Chiefs*. This session will feature opening remarks on the case for state leadership in early childhood education followed by a discussion on the specific actions state chiefs are currently taking to improve early childhood opportunities in their states. |
| 11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Update on the Progress of Puerto Rico Schools  
  *Presidential Ballroom*  
  Julia Keleher, Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Education  
  On September 20, 2017, the island territory of Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria. Secretary Keleher will share the efforts underway to rebuild the education system in Puerto Rico after the storm and highlight the experiences of students currently displaced across the United States. |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Networking Lunch  
  *Congressional and Senate Room* |
| 1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. | Federal Update  
  *Presidential Ballroom*  
  Peter Zamora, Director of Federal Relations, CCSSO  
  Peter Zamora will update all attendees on the latest developments in the U.S. Congress and with the Trump Administration, as well as share highlights of CCSSO’s legislative and advocacy priorities. |
### 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
**A New Era: Focusing on the State and Local Level**

*Presidential Ballroom*

**Moderator**

Lillian Lowery, Vice President for P-12 Policy and Practice, The Education Trust

**State Focus: Colorado**

Katy Anthes, Commissioner of Education, Colorado

Deirdre Pilch, Superintendent, Greeley-Evans School District 6, Colorado

As states begin to fully implement their plans under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) they continue to work closely with districts and local stakeholders to advance equity. This session will highlight Colorado’s heightened focus on equity through its new strategic plan, as well as through its partnership and engagement with local districts. District Superintendent Pilch will also share how her district is taking action to advance equity.

### 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
**Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award**

*Presidential Ballroom*

**2018 Distinguished Service Award Honoree**


**Presenters**

Chris Minnich, Former Executive Director, CCSSO

Carey M. Wright, Superintendent of Education, Mississippi and CCSSO Board President

Accepted by Mitchell Chester’s family: Angela Sangeorge, Mikhail Chester, and Nicholas Sangeorge.

CCSSO will posthumously present Commissioner Mitchell Chester with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award. Accepting the award on behalf of Commissioner Chester and his family will be his wife, Angela Sangeorge. The Distinguished Service Award is the Council's highest honor. The award recognizes individuals whose contributions have given strength to pre-K-12 public education in the United States.

The Council presents this award annually to an individual, or individuals, whose contribution to strengthening education merits such recognition. With this award, we recognize extensive, long-term service and commitment to improving public education. This premier honor of the Council has been presented over a period of 58 years.

### 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Networking Break**

*Capital Terrace Foyer*
Chief-Led Breakout Discussions: Improving Outcomes for All Students

Chief state school officers will lead breakout discussion sessions on key steps they are taking to improve educational outcomes for all students, including per-pupil funding. All participants are invited to choose one breakout discussion to attend.

- **Follow the Money: ESSA School Level Spending Requirement**

  **Federal AB**

  **Facilitator:**
  | Brent Engelman, Education Data and Information Systems Director, CCSSO

  **Panelists:**
  | Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio
  | Marguerite Roza, Director, Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University

  ESSA’s new requirement to report spending by school provides a unique opportunity for states and districts to improve school finance. In addition, school-level per-pupil expenditure reporting can help drive equity, thereby advancing equity commitment #5 from *Leading for Equity*: “Follow the Money: Allocate Resources to Achieve Fiscal Equity.” Learn more from CCSSO’s Brent Engelman and Marguerite Roza on what is required in the new law, and how states can use the data to develop tools for system improvement. This session will also feature State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria sharing how Ohio has already begun this work to make use of school-level financial data and how districts and schools have responded.

- **Developing a Diverse and Effective Workforce to Meet the Needs of All Learners**

  **South American AB**

  **Facilitator:**
  | Saroja Warner, Director, Education Workforce, CCSSO

  **Presenters:**
  | Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education, Nebraska
  | Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, Connecticut

  As identified in *Leading for Equity*, in particular equity commitment #8, state leaders are committed to hiring more diverse teachers, principals, and system leaders to reflect changing student demographics, and taking deliberate actions to develop cultural competencies among aspiring and practicing educators so that educators are prepared to meet the needs of each student. Research has demonstrated the importance of having a teacher workforce that reflects the diversity of students. The increasing diversity of K12 students in our nation has created an equity priority for school districts and states: the need to both increase the diversity of the teacher workforce so it better reflects the great diversity of students and at the same time ensure all teachers, regardless of race or ethnicity, demonstrate culturally responsive practice to effectively teach our increasingly diverse student population. In this session, participants will learn about the progress and enduring challenges faced by chiefs taking action to lead for equity and address these complimentary priorities.
• Innovation in Assessment: ESSA and Beyond

Statler AB

Facilitator:

Kirsten Taylor Carr, Senior Program Director, Student Expectations, CCSSO

Presenters:

Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of Education, Vermont

Stephen Pruitt, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky

State leaders have long been committed to supporting high-quality systems of assessments for students in their states. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reinvigorated the conversation about different ways to think about assessment by offering a number of new flexibilities. This breakout discussion will be an opportunity to engage with chiefs who are taking on innovative approaches to assessment both through the flexibilities offered through ESSA and independent of the federal law.

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  Networking Break

Capital Terrace Foyer

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Remarks from Secretary Betsy DeVos

Presidential Ballroom

Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education

Secretary DeVos will deliver a keynote address to the CCSSO Legislative Conference.

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  Chiefs-Only Roundtable Discussion with Secretary Betsy DeVos

South American Room

Chiefs are invited to a discussion with Secretary Betsy DeVos on advancing equity commitment #9 from Leading for Equity, “Improve Conditions for Learning: Focus on School Culture, Climate and Social-emotional development.” The conversations will focus on specific actions state education leaders can take to improve school climate and safety. Senior Deputies attending the Legislative Conference in place of their chiefs are welcome to attend this meeting as well.

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  Networking Reception

North Gate Grill (First Floor Restaurant)

Light hors d’oeuvres and drinks at the Capital Hilton.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee and Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>Congressional Room</td>
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<td>Coffee and a light continental breakfast</td>
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<td>will be available to guests to enjoy prior</td>
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<td>breakfast.</td>
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<td>7:20 a.m.</td>
<td>Shuttle to U.S. Capitol</td>
<td>Capital Hilton Lobby</td>
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<td>depart promptly at 7:20 a.m. If you are</td>
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<td>prefer to travel separately, you may</td>
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<td>take a taxi. Please plan to allow time</td>
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<td>to move through security and be sure to</td>
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<td>bring your CCSSO badge.</td>
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<td>at the Capital Hilton prior to departing.</td>
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<td>7:40 a.m.</td>
<td>Arrival and Breakfast on Capitol Hill</td>
<td>Kennedy Caucus Room (Russell Senate Office</td>
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<td>Breakfast will be available for all</td>
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<td>participants. Carissa Miller, Interim</td>
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<td>CCSSO Executive Director, will welcome</td>
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<td>all guests.</td>
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<td>8:00 a.m.– 8:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Prepare for Hill Visits</td>
<td>Kennedy Caucus Room (Russell Senate Office</td>
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<td>Peter Zamora, CCSSO Director of Federal</td>
<td>Building Room 325)</td>
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<td>Relations, will review tips for</td>
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<td>conducting successful visits with</td>
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<td>members of Congress and review the</td>
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<td>8:15 a.m.– 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Discussion with Congressman Scott</td>
<td>Kennedy Caucus Room (Russell Senate Office</td>
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<td>Steven Constantino, Acting Superintendent</td>
<td>Building Room 325)</td>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA),</td>
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<td>Ranking Member of the House Committee on</td>
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<td>Education and the Workforce</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m.– 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Discussion with Senator Alexander</td>
<td>Kennedy Caucus Room (Russell Senate Office</td>
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<td>Candice McQueen, Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Building Room 325)</td>
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<td>Speaker</td>
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<td>Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman</td>
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<td>of the Senate Health, Education, Labor</td>
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<td>and Pensions (HELP) Committee</td>
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| 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | **A National Imperative: State Leadership on Career Readiness for All Students**  
*Kennedy Caucus Room (Russell Senate Office Building Room 325)*  
Moderator: Carissa Miller, Interim Executive Director, CCSSO  
Congressional Leader Discussion: Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Member of the House Education and Workforce Committee and the Congressional CTE Caucus  
State Chief Discussion:  
Panelists: Steve Canavero, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada  
Candice McQueen, Commissioner of Education, Tennessee  
Stephen Pruitt, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky  
State leaders are committed to making sure all students graduate prepared for college, careers, and life. This session will include a video to showcase different approaches underway in four states participating in the New Skills for Youth initiative, Tennessee, Delaware, Louisiana, and Kentucky, to transform career pathways and elevate career education. Following the video, there will be a moderated panel discussion with state chiefs to discuss the national imperative for ensuring all students have access to high quality career readiness offerings and the specific actions state leaders are taking to advance this work. |
| 10:15 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. | **Discussion with Congresswoman Foxx**  
*Kennedy Caucus Room (Russell Senate Office Building Room 325)*  
Introduction by Mark Johnson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, North Carolina  
Speaker: Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce |
| 10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | **Discussion with Senator Murphy**  
*Kennedy Caucus Room (Russell Senate Office Building Room 325)*  
Introduction by Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, Connecticut  
Speaker: Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee |
| 11:00 a.m. | **Conclusion of the CCSSO Legislative Conference**  
Carissa Miller, Interim Executive Director, will provide closing remarks for the CCSSO Legislative Conference.  
Lunch will be on your own and a list of nearby restaurants and lunch options for those staying on Capitol Hill will be provided in your workbook and on the online meeting app. Shuttle buses will be available to return participants to the Capital Hilton. |
### 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**State Hill Visits**

CCSSO members will visit members of Congress. CCSSO will be glad to set up meetings for chiefs and state teams with members of Congress and their congressional delegation. States may complete the [meeting request form](mailto:Peter.Zamora@ccssso.org). Please contact Peter Zamora, CCSSO’s Director of Federal Relations, [Peter.Zamora@ccssso.org](mailto:Peter.Zamora@ccssso.org) if you have questions about Hill visits or would like for CCSSO to schedule your visits.

### 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Partner Luncheon**

**CCSSO Offices: One Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 700**

CCSSO partners are invited to join Carissa Miller and the leadership team for lunch and discussion following the morning on the Hill. Partners may walk or ride the shuttle bus back from the morning sessions to the CCSSO offices. An agenda for this discussion will be sent to partners by CCSSO’s Director of Strategic Partnerships, Jacob Bruno [Jacob.Bruno@ccssso.org](mailto:Jacob.Bruno@ccssso.org).
Please let CCSSO know if we can assist you with any visits to the U.S. Capitol.

Please email Peter Zamora, peter.zamora@ccsso.org, with any questions or requests.
Inside the Capitol:

**Dirksen South Buffet:** White tablecloth buffet, reservations available. Open 11:30-2:30 in the Dirksen Basement

**Dirksen North Servery:** Diverse cafeteria selections including salad bar, pizza, burgers, sushi, sandwiches, and carving station. Open 7:30-3 in the Dirksen Basement

**Senate Chef:** Ready to eat salad or made to order burgers and sandwiches. Open 8-6:30 on the Ground Floor Corridor connecting Dirksen and Hart

**Russell Carry-Out:** Cold and hot buffet, including Chinese fare. Open 7:30-5 in the Russell Building Basement

In the Capitol Visitor Center and House Office Buildings:

**Capitol Visitor Center:** Full cafeteria selections. Open 8:30-4 in the Capitol Visitor Center

**Longworth Café:** Full cafeteria selections. Open 7:30-2:30 in the Longworth House Office Building

**Rayburn Café:** Slightly smaller than Longworth, but still full buffet. Open 7:30-2:30 in the Rayburn House Office Building

North (Senate) side of the Capitol:

- **Art and Soul**
  - $$$ - American
  - 415 New Jersey Ave NW

- **Charlie Palmer Steak**
  - $$$$ - Steakhouse, lounge
  - 101 Constitution Ave

- **Johnny’s Half Shell**
  - $$$ - Seafood
  - 400 N Capitol St NW

- **Bistro Bis**
  - $$$ - French
  - 15 E St NW

- **West Wing Cafe**
  - $ - Sandwiches/Subs
  - 300 New Jersey Ave NW

- **Wiseguy NY Pizza**
  - $ - Pizza
  - 300 Massachusetts Ave NW

South (House) side of the Capitol:

- **Good Stuff Eatery**
  - $$ - Burgers, Dessert, American
  - 303 Pennsylvania Ave SE

- **We, the Pizza**
  - $ - Pizza, Sandwiches/Subs, Dessert
  - 305 Pennsylvania Ave SE

- **Tortilla Cafe**
  - $ - Mexican, Latin American
  - 210 7th St SE

- **District Taco**
  - $ - Mexican, Tacos
  - 656 Pennsylvania Avenue SE

- **Acqua Al 2**
  - $$$ - Italian
  - 212 7th St SE

- **Montmartre**
  - $$ - French, European
  - 327 7th St SE
The Distinguished Service Award is the Council’s highest honor, and recognizes individuals whose contributions have given strength to pre K-12 public education in the United States. This year, we recognize the late Mitchell Chester, Education Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, for his distinguished service on behalf of students.
The CCSSO Board of Directors manages the overall business affairs of the Council and is the governing body of the organization.

**Officers**

- **President:** Carey M. Wright
  - Mississippi

- **President-Elect:** Pedro Rivera
  - Pennsylvania

- **President Pro Tempore:** Brenda Cassellius
  - Minnesota

**Directors**

- Jillian Balow
  - Wyoming

- Matthew Blomstedt
  - Nebraska

- Steve Canavero
  - Nevada

- Stephen Pruitt
  - Kentucky

- Candice McQueen
  - Tennessee

- Tony Smith
  - Illinois
ALABAMA

Ed Richardson
Interim State Superintendent of Education
https://www.alsde.edu
Assumed Office: 8/14/2017
Appointed by State Board

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

Tony Dearman
Director
http://www.bie.edu/
Assumed Office: 11/2/2016
Appointed by Secretary of Interior

ALASKA

Michael Johnson
Commissioner of Education and Early Development
http://www.eed.state.ak.us
Assumed Office: 7/1/2016
Appointed by State Board
Confirmed by Governor

CALIFORNIA

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
http://www.cde.ca.gov
Assumed Office: 1/3/2011
Elected by Popular Vote

AMERICAN SAMOA

Ruth Matagi-Tofiga
Director of Education
http://www.doe.as
Assumed Office: 1/30/2017
Appointed by Governor

COLORADO

Katy Anthes
Commissioner of Education
https://www.cde.state.co.us/
Assumed Office: 5/20/2016
Appointed by State Board

ARIZONA

Diane Douglas
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
http://www.ade.state.az.us
Assumed Office: 1/5/2015
Elected by Popular Vote

CONNECTICUT

Dianna Wentzell
Commissioner of Education
http://www.sde.ct.gov
Assumed Office: 1/6/2015
Appointed by State Board

ARKANSAS

Johnny Key
Commissioner of Education
http://www.arksased.org
Assumed Office: 3/26/2015
Appointed by Governor

DELAWARE

Susan Bunting
Secretary of Education
http://www.doe.k12.de.us
Assumed Office: 1/26/2017
Appointed by Governor, Confirmed by Senate
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Thomas Brady
Director
http://www.dodea.edu
Assumed Office: 3/20/2014
Appointed by DoDEA

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Hanseul Kang
State Superintendent of Education
http://osse.dc.gov
Assumed Office: 3/23/2015
Appointed by Mayor of District of Columbia

FLORIDA

Pam Stewart
Commissioner of Education
http://www.fldoe.org
Assumed Office: 8/2/2013
Appointed by State Board

GEORGIA

Richard Woods
State Superintendent of Schools
http://www.doe.k12.ga.us
Assumed Office: 1/12/2015
Elected by Popular Vote

GUAM

Jon Fernandez
Superintendent of Education
http://www.gdoe.net/
Assumed Office: 7/1/2012
Appointed by Education Board

HAWAI’I

Christina Kishimoto
Superintendent of Education
http://doe.k12.hi.us
Assumed Office: 8/1/2017
Appointed by State Board

IDAHO

Sherri Ybarra
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
http://www.sde.idaho.gov
Assumed Office: 1/5/2015
Elected by Popular Vote

ILLINOIS

Tony Smith
State Superintendent of Education
http://www.isbe.state.il.us
Assumed Office: 5/1/2015
Appointed by State Board

INDIANA

Jennifer McCormick
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
http://www.doe.in.gov
Assumed Office: 1/9/2017
Elected by Popular Vote

IOWA

Ryan Wise
Director of Education
http://www.educateiowa.gov
Assumed Office: 7/1/2015
Appointed by Governor
CHIEFS

- The names of chiefs in attendance are in red -

KANSAS
Randy Watson
Commissioner of Education
http://www.ksde.org
Assumed Office: 7/1/2015
Appointed by State Board

MASSACHUSETTS
Jeff Wulfson
Acting Commissioner of Education
http://www.doe.mass.edu
Assumed Office: 6/27/2017
Appointed by State Board

KENTUCKY
Stephen Pruitt
Commissioner of Education
http://education.ky.gov
Assumed Office: 10/16/2015
Appointed by State Board

MICHIGAN
Brian Whiston
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
http://www.michigan.gov/mde
Assumed Office: 7/1/2015
Appointed by State Board

LOUISIANA
John White
State Superintendent of Education
http://www.doe.state.la.us
Assumed Office: 1/11/2012
Appointed by State Board

MINNESOTA
Brenda Cassellius
Commissioner of Education
http://www.education.state.mn.us
Assumed Office: 12/31/2010
Appointed by Governor

MAINE
Robert Hasson
Commissioner of Education
http://www.maine.gov/education
Assumed Office: 11/24/2016
Appointed by Governor

MISSISSIPPI
Carey M. Wright
State Superintendent of Education
http://www.mde.k12.ms.us
Assumed Office: 11/1/2013
Appointed by State Board

MARYLAND
Karen Salmon
State Superintendent of Schools
http://www.msde.maryland.gov
Assumed Office: 7/1/2016
Appointed by State Board

MISSOURI
Roger Dorson
Interim Commissioner of Education
http://dese.mo.gov
Assumed Office: 12/1/2017
Appointed by State Board
**CHIEFS**

--- The names of chiefs in attendance are in red ---

**MONTANA**
Elsie Arntzen  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://opi.mt.gov  
Assumed Office: 1/2/2017  
Elected by Popular Vote

**NEW MEXICO**
Christopher Ruszkowski  
Education Secretary  
http://www.ped.state.nm.us  
Assumed Office: 6/21/2017  
Appointed by Governor

**NEBRASKA**
Matthew Blomstedt  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.education.ne.gov  
Assumed Office: 1/2/2014  
Appointed by State Board

**NEW YORK**
MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.nysed.gov  
Assumed Office: 7/6/2015  
Appointed by State Board

**NEVADA**
Steve Canavero  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.doe.nv.gov  
Assumed Office: 8/20/2015  
Appointed by Governor

**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
Cynthia Deleon Guerrero  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.cnmipss.org  
Assumed Office: 1/24/2017  
Appointed by Governor

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**
Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.education.nh.gov  
Assumed Office: 2/15/2017  
Appointed by Governor, Confirmed by Executive Council

**NORTH CAROLINA**
Mark Johnson  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.ncpublicschools.org  
Assumed Office: 1/4/2017  
Elected by Popular Vote

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**
Lamont Repollet  
Acting Commissioner of Education  
http://www.state.nj.us/education  
Assumed Office: 1/29/2018  
Appointed by Governor

**NORTH DAKOTA**
Kirsten Baesler  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.dpi.state.nd.us  
Assumed Office: 1/1/2013  
Elected by Popular Vote
— The names of chiefs in attendance are in red —

**OHIO**
Paolo DeMaria  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.ode.state.oh.us  
Appointed by State Board

**RHODE ISLAND**
Ken Wagner  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.ride.ri.gov  
Assumed Office: 7/13/2015  
Appointed by State Board

**OKLAHOMA**
Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://sde.state.ok.us  
Assumed Office: 1/12/2015  
Elected by Popular Vote

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
Molly Spearman  
State Superintendent of Education  
http://www.ed.sc.gov  
Assumed Office: 1/9/2015  
Elected by Popular Vote

**OREGON**
Colt Gill  
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.ode.state.or.us  
Assumed Office: 10/11/2017  
Appointed by Governor

**SOUTH DAKOTA**
Donald Kirkegaard  
Secretary of Education  
http://doe.sd.gov  
Assumed Office: 1/1/2018  
Appointed by Governor

**PENNSYLVANIA**
Pedro Rivera  
Secretary of Education  
http://www.education.state.pa.us  
Assumed Office: 1/20/2015  
Appointed by Governor

**TENNESSEE**
Candice McQueen  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.tn.gov/education  
Assumed Office: 1/17/2015  
Appointed by Governor

**PUERTO RICO**
Julia Keleher  
Secretaria de Educación  
http://de.gobierno.pr  
Assumed Office: 1/2/2017  
Appointed by Governor

**TEXAS**
Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.tea.state.tx.us  
Appointed by Governor

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE
— The names of chiefs in attendance are in red —

**UTAH**
Sydnee Dickson  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.schools.utah.gov  
Assumed Office: 2/18/2016  
Appointed by State Board

**WEST VIRGINIA**
Steven Paine  
State Superintendent of Schools  
http://vwde.state.wv.us  
Assumed Office: 3/27/17  
Appointed by State Board

**VERMONT**
Rebecca Holcombe  
Secretary of Education  
http://www.education.vermont.gov  
Assumed Office: 1/2/2014  
Appointed by Governor

**WISCONSIN**
Tony Evers  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://dpi.wi.gov  
Assumed Office: 4/1/2009  
Elected by Popular Vote

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**
Sharon McCollum  
Commissioner of Education  
http://www.doe.vi  
Appointed by Governor

**WYOMING**
Jillian Balow  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://edu.wyoming.gov  
Assumed Office: 1/5/2015  
Elected by Popular Vote

**VIRGINIA**
Steven Constantino  
Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.doe.virginia.gov  
Assumed Office: 1/1/2018  
Appointed by Governor

**WASHINGTON**
Chris Reykdal  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
http://www.k12.wa.us  
Assumed Office: 1/11/2017  
Elected by Popular Vote
## CHIEF TENURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date Assumed Office</th>
<th>Time in Office (current to 3/1/2018)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamont Repollet</td>
<td>Acting Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>1/29/18</td>
<td>1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Kirkegaard</td>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>1/1/18</td>
<td>2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Constantino</td>
<td>Acting State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>1/1/18</td>
<td>2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Dorson</td>
<td>Interim Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>12/1/17</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colt Gill</td>
<td>Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>10/11/17</td>
<td>4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Kishimoto</td>
<td>Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>Hawaii State</td>
<td>8/1/17</td>
<td>7 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Ruszkowski</td>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>6/21/17</td>
<td>8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Wulfson</td>
<td>Acting Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>6/27/17</td>
<td>8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Edelblut</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>2/15/17</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Matagi-Tofiga</td>
<td>Director of Education</td>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>1/30/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Deleon Guerrero</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Northern Mariana Islands</td>
<td>1/24/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Bunting</td>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>1/26/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer McCormick</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>1/9/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Reykdal</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>1/11/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Johnson</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>1/4/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsie Arntzen</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>1/2/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Keleher</td>
<td>Secretaria de Educación</td>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>1/2/17</td>
<td>1 year, 1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Dearman</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Bureau of Indian Education</td>
<td>11/2/16</td>
<td>1 year, 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hasson</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>11/24/16</td>
<td>1 year, 3 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paolo DeMaria</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>6/27/16</td>
<td>1 year, 4 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Johnson</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education and Early Development</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>7/1/16</td>
<td>1 year, 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Salmon</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Schools</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>7/1/16</td>
<td>1 year, 8 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katy Anthes</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>5/20/16</td>
<td>1 year, 9 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydnee Dickson</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>2/18/16</td>
<td>2 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Morath</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>1/4/16</td>
<td>2 years, 1 month</td>
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<tr>
<td>MaryEllen Elia</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>7/6/15</td>
<td>2 years, 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Wagner</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>7/14/15</td>
<td>2 years, 3 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Pruitt</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>10/16/15</td>
<td>2 years, 4 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Canavero</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>8/20/15</td>
<td>2 years, 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanseul Kang</td>
<td>Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>3/23/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Wise</td>
<td>Director of Education</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>7/1/15</td>
<td>2 years, 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Date Assumed Office</td>
<td>Time in Office (current to 3/1/2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Watson</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>7/1/15</td>
<td>2 years, 8 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Whiston</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>7/1/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon McCollum</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Virgin Islands</td>
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<td>2 years, 8 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy Hofmeister</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>1/12/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedro Rivera</td>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1/20/15</td>
<td>2 years, 9 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Spearman</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>1/14/15</td>
<td>2 years, 9 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Smith</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>5/1/15</td>
<td>2 years, 10 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnny Key</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>3/26/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane Douglas</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dianna Wentzell</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Connecticut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Woods</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Schools</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>3 years, 1 month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherri Ybarra</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>1/5/15</td>
<td>3 years, 1 month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candice McQueen</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>1/17/15</td>
<td>3 years, 1 month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jillian Balow</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>1/5/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Brady</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Department of Defense Education Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Blomstedt</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>1/2/14</td>
<td>4 years, 1 month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Holcombe</td>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>1/2/14</td>
<td>4 years, 1 month</td>
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<td>Carey M. Wright</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>11/1/13</td>
<td>4 years, 4 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Stewart</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>8/2/13</td>
<td>4 years, 6 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsten Baesler</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>1/1/13</td>
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<td>Jon Fernandez</td>
<td>Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>John White</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>1/11/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Paine*</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Schools</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Torlakson</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>California</td>
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<td>Brenda Cassellius</td>
<td>Commissioner of Education</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Richardson*</td>
<td>Interim State Superintendent of Education</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>8/14/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Evers</td>
<td>State Superintendent of Public Instruction</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
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*A Steven Paine was previously Chief in WV from July 2005-January 2011
*Ed Richardson was previously Chief in AL from October 1995-January 2004

**Average Length of Term**

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<th>MONTHS</th>
<th>YEARS</th>
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MEET THE FOUR FINALISTS FOR 2018

Amy T. Andersen

2018 New Jersey Teacher of the Year

Amy started her career in Boston as a teacher of the deaf for eight years and she promoted strength in diversity. In 2004, Amy moved to New Jersey and began the American Sign Language program at Ocean City High School and today, she teaches ASL 1, ASL 2 and ASL 3 Honors. In 2015, her program was highlighted on an Emmy-award winning program when her students’ ASL anti-bullying video went viral.

Amy, a National Board Certified Teacher, takes students beyond the classroom by arranging paint nights with world-renowned deaf artists and signing opportunities with the National Association of the Deaf. She shows her students that diversity enriches all of our lives, and reinforces that every voice has value and it’s our human right to communicate. Her students discover that differences should be celebrated, which leads many of Amy’s students to careers in deaf education or ASL interpreting. Her students have even interpreted for former First Lady Michelle Obama and Madonna.

Learn more about Amy Andersen, and why she was selected as a finalist.

Kara Ball

2018 Department of Defense Education Activity Teacher of the Year

As a cultivator of curiosity, Kara Ball uses science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and project-based learning to transform her elementary students into the leaders of tomorrow. Currently teaching military-connected students at Camp Lejeune for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), Kara has also taught multi-age, special education, STEM, and advanced mathematics. She also has experience teaching in communities with large homeless and English as a Second Language (ESL) populations.

Kara is a National Board Certified Teacher who has served as a Mentor Teacher for eight years, District STEM coordinator, and U.S Naval Academy SET Sail STEM Team Leader. She is a member of DoDEA's Strategic Planning Committee and her school’s Continuous School Improvement Team. In 2013 she was the recipient of the Shirley J. Lowrie Award from Montgomery County Public Schools, Md., honoring an exemplary elementary education teacher. In 2016, she was DoDEA's finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Learn more about Kara Ball, and why she was selected as a finalist.

The National Teacher of the Year program, run by the Council of Chief State School Officers, identifies exceptional teachers in the country, recognizes their effective work in the classroom, amplifies their voices, and empowers them to participate in policy discussions at the state and national levels.

Learn more at www.ccsso.org.
Congratulations to the four finalists for 2018 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

MEET THE FOUR FINALISTS FOR 2018 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Jonathan Juravich

2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year

Jonathan is an award winning artist and art educator at Liberty Tree Elementary in Powell, Ohio. In his 13th year in the classroom, Jonathan, challenges students to make the world a better place through art. In his work as an artist, coach, and educational leader, he hopes to do the same.

Jonathan is the Building Environment Team leader at Liberty Tree - overseeing school culture, partnerships, and service learning. As the district Elementary Visual Art Department Chair, he facilitates professional development, advances curriculum, and advocates for arts education best practices. Coaching middle school cross-country and track gives him opportunities to continue making connections with students and families well after they have left his classroom.

Jonathan reaches out to the community locally and statewide by developing art programs with the Columbus Zoo, the Columbus Arts Festival, the Ohio Association for the Developmentally Disabled and the Ohio Art Education Association. He mentors future art educators as an adjunct instructor at Otterbein University, his alma mater.

Learn more about Jonathan Juravich, and why he was selected as a finalist.

Mandy Manning

2018 Washington Teacher of the Year

Mandy Manning teaches English and math to refugee and immigrant students in the Newcomer Center at Ferris High School in Spokane, Washington, where she is her students' first teacher once they arrive in the U.S.

Mandy began her career as a teacher in the Peace Corps in Armenia. She has also taught in Japan and in schools across the U.S. This global perspective infuses her classroom. Mandy uses experiential projects like map-making to help her students process trauma, celebrate their home countries and culture, and learn about their new community. Mandy has hosted more than 160 teaching candidates in the Newcomer Center. Mandy aims to expose as many future teachers, colleagues, and community members as possible to the diverse environment of the Center.

As a National Board Certified Teacher, Mandy is an ambassador and mentor to her colleagues and she recently lead a diverse committee in re-evaluating her school's discipline plan and adopting an evidence-based behavioral intervention plan that enhanced academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. This effort resulted in a 74 percent decrease in suspensions in the first year.

Learn more about Mandy Manning, and why she was selected as a finalist.

Congratulations to the four finalists for 2018 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR!
ALASKA

Erin Hardin
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Venessa Keesler  
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Caroline Liethen  
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Pete Smith  
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- **Christine Brennan**  
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- **Carolyn Thompson**  
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Tiffany Stanley
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Michael Thompson
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Brent Bacon
Chief Academic Officer
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WYOMING
Kari Eakins
Communications Director
kari.eakins@wyo.gov
Betsy DeVos

Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education

Betsy DeVos serves as the 11th U.S. secretary of education. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 7, 2017 after being nominated by President Donald J. Trump.

Secretary DeVos has been involved in education policy for nearly three decades as an advocate for children and a voice for parents. She is especially passionate about reforms that help underserved children gain access to a quality education.

DeVos’ interest in education was sparked at an early age by her mother, a public school teacher. It grew when she sent her own children to school and was confronted with the reality that not every child in America is granted an equal opportunity to receive a great education. DeVos saw firsthand the work leaders in her hometown were doing to increase educational opportunities for students and choices for parents, and she has been involved in the fight to provide better educational options across the nation ever since.

For 15 years, DeVos served as an in-school mentor for at-risk children in the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Public Schools. Her interactions there with students, families and teachers, according to DeVos, “changed my life and my perspective about education forever.”

A leader in the movement to empower parents, DeVos has worked to support the creation of new educational choices for students in 25 states and the District of Columbia.

As secretary, DeVos will work with President Trump to advance equal opportunities for quality education for all students. DeVos firmly believes that neither the ZIP code in which a child lives nor a child’s household income should be the principal determinant of his or her opportunity to receive a world-class education. As secretary, she will advocate for returning control of education to states and localities, giving parents greater power to choose the educational settings that are best for their children and ensuring that higher education puts students on the path to successful careers.

Prior to her confirmation, DeVos served as chairman of The Windquest Group, an enterprise and investment management firm. In addition to her leadership in the education arena, DeVos has also served on the boards of numerous national and local charitable and civic organizations, including the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Kids Hope USA, ArtPrize, Mars Hill Bible Church and the Kendall College of Art and Design.

DeVos is a graduate of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is married to entrepreneur, philanthropist and community activist Dick DeVos, and together they have four children and six grandchildren.
Doris Kearns Goodwin

**Presidential Historian, Public Speaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author**

Goodwin is the author of six critically acclaimed and New York Times best-selling books, including her most recent, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*. Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln, was awarded the prestigious Lincoln Prize, the inaugural Book Prize for American History, and Goodwin in 2016 was the first historian to receive the Lincoln Leadership Prize from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

Among her many honors and awards Goodwin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in history for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*, and is the author of the best sellers *Wait Till Next Year, Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream* and *The Fitzgeralys and the Kennedys*.

Goodwin is also well known for her appearances and commentary on television networks and late night talk shows. Goodwin graduated from Colby College, and was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Government from Harvard University, where she taught Government, including a course on the American Presidency. She was the first woman to enter the Boston Red Sox locker room, and is a devoted fan of the World Series-winning team.

John Kelly

**State Board Member, Mississippi Department of Education and NASBE Board President**

John R. Kelly serves as the National Association of State Boards of Education in 2018 and is a member and former chairman of the Mississippi State Board of Education.

He has served as Gulfport’s chief administrative officer since January 2007 and was asked to serve through several mayoral transitions. Kelly spent most of his career in federal service, including serving regional director for Community and Family Support with Navy Region Southeast in Jacksonville, Fla. Kelly spent 10 years of his career with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, Mississippi State University where he worked first as an Urban 4-H Youth Agent and later as a marine resource specialist. For 24 years he worked as an adjunct professor at the University Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus, where he taught courses in sociology, social psychology and adult education.

Immediately after retirement from federal service he managed his own consulting firm, Resources Management Inc. During his career, Kelly testified before 11 U. S. House and Senate committees and subcommittees, representing the U.S. Navy and the American Cancer Society (ACS). While with the ACS, he worked with Senate leaders to bring the heads of tobacco companies before a Senate subcommittee and was honored by former President Bill Clinton and George H. Bush for his work in cancer control.

Kelly has a long history of community and social involvement. Kelly is a 1970 graduate of Alcorn State University. He also earned a master’s degree from Wayne State University in Detroit and a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.
Lillian Lowery

Vice President for P-12 Policy and Practice

Lillian M. Lowery, Ph.D. serves as Ed Trust’s, vice president for preK-12 policy, research, and practice, leading Ed Trust ambitious agenda to focus national attention on inequities in public education as well as the actions necessary to close gaps in opportunity and raise achievement.

Most recently, she served as president and CEO of FutureReady Columbus. Prior to her time in Ohio, she served as the education lead for two states, both as the state superintendent of schools for the Maryland State Board of Education and as the secretary of education for the State of Delaware.

Additionally, she served as superintendent of the Christina School District in New Castle County, Delaware; assistant superintendent in Fairfax County Public Schools in Fairfax County, Virginia; and area administrator for Fort Wayne Community Schools in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She also has school-level experience, having been a high school principal and assistant principal, a minority student achievement mentor, and a secondary English teacher.

Lowery served on several organizational boards, including Delaware State University, EdReports.org, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Lowery holds a doctorate in education and educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a master’s degree in education curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina, and a bachelor’s degree in English and secondary education from North Carolina Central University.

Deirdre Pilch

Superintendent of Greeley-Evans School District 6

In July 2016, Dr. Deirdre Pilch was selected to serve as the superintendent of Greeley-Evans School District 6. With 30 years of experience in public education, including serving as the Deputy Superintendent in the Boulder Valley School District, a teacher, assistant principal, principal, curriculum and instruction director and assistant superintendent in school districts in Wyoming, Missouri and Colorado.

During her tenure at District 6, Dr. Pilch led the adoption of a new strategic plan and is ensuring the implementation of the priorities and goals outlined in the plan. She is devoted to ensuring that each and every student in District 6 graduates on time with the skills they need to enter college or a career.

Dr. Pilch currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Greeley Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Weld County, the Longs Peak Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and is a member of the Downtown Greeley Rotary Club. Dr. Pilch completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming. She holds a Master’s degree and an Educational Specialist degree in secondary school administration from the University of Central Missouri. Her Doctorate of Education is in Educational Policy and Leadership from the University of Kansas.
Craig Ramey

**Professor and Distinguished Research Scholar at Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute**

Craig Ramey is Professor and Distinguished Research Scholar of Human Development at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute; Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Human Development at Virginia Tech; Professor of Pediatrics at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine; and Chief Science Officer for Human Development for the City of Roanoke, Virginia. His program of research centers on the role of experience – across the human lifespan - in the development of competence and robust health. His approach relies largely on experimental interventions in education, psychology, and pediatrics that provide rigorous tests of plausible developmental mechanisms of stability and change within dynamic, multilayered ecologies.

Ramey engages both epidemiological and longitudinal datasets to provide a broad contextual framework for identifying the multiple inter-related conditions that influence biopsychosocial risk, protective, and facilitating factors. His research findings are highly relevant to many national and international policy issues. Accordingly, he has extended his research into topics that address “going-to-scale” and rapid application of scientific findings that can prevent disabilities, promote children’s education and health outcomes, and improve family and community wellbeing. This new field of “implementation science” represents a new frontier for the neurosciences and for educating health practitioners and policymakers.

Marguerite Roza

**Director, Edunomics Lab and Research Professor at Georgetown University**

Marguerite Roza, Ph.D., is the Director of the Edunomics Lab and a Research Professor at Georgetown University. Dr. Roza’s research focuses on quantitative policy analysis, particularly in the area of education finance. Recent research traces the effects of fiscal policies at the federal, state, and district levels for their implications on resources at school and classroom levels. Her calculations of dollar implications and cost equivalent tradeoffs have prompted changes in education finance policy at all levels in the education system. She’s led projects including the Finance and Productivity Initiative at CRPE and the Schools in Crisis Rapid response Paper Series. More recently she served as Senior Economic Advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Her work has been published by Education Sector, the Brookings Institution, Public Budgeting and Finance, Education Next, and the Peabody Journal of Education. Dr. Roza is author of the highly regarded education finance book, Educational Economics: Where Do School Funds Go?

Dr. Roza earned a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Washington. Prior to that, she served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy teaching thermodynamics at the Naval Nuclear Power School. She has a B.S. from Duke University and has studied at the London School of Economics and the University of Amsterdam.
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CCSSO welcomes the opportunity to work with partners that help the Council fulfill its mission, which is to ensure that all students participating in our public education system -- regardless of background -- graduate prepared for college, careers, and life. Prospective and current partners are subject to eligibility criteria to ensure that partner organizations are aligned in their commitment to student achievement, value the trusted environment CCSSO fosters through its activities, and respect that the primary function of the state education agency at all times is to serve the best interests of its students, schools and public. CCSSO strives to create a collegial, collaborative community through its events and programs allowing our members and partners to network with peers, share expertise and best practices, and have honest dialogue on key educational policy issues. To ensure that all member and partner interactions are structured to protect the integrity of the Council and its members, support the CCSSO’s priorities, and ultimately strengthen the capacity of state education agencies, partner organizations must refrain from engaging in solicitous, development, or lobbying activities at CCSSO events.

Level 1 Partners

AIR®

Established in 1946, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., the American Institutes for Research (AIR) is a nonpartisan not-for-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research and delivers technical assistance both domestically and internationally in the areas of health, education and workforce productivity. Well-known for its groundbreaking work in student testing and performance assessment, AIR is a global leader in P-20 education research, evaluation, technical assistance, and policy. For more information, visit http://www.air.org.

Corwin, a SAGE company, is a leading publisher of professional development books for PreK-12 educators and an innovative provider of workshops, seminars, and online training resources. We believe that every child deserves an excellent education and that we have a responsibility to contribute to that excellence by enhancing professional practice. We partner with authors, educators, and academics to bring the latest research and proven methods to schools through practical, hands-on materials. Established in 1990 as an independent company, Corwin continues to carry out our mission of Helping Educators Do Their Work Better in everything we do.

At nonprofit ETS, our mission is to advance quality and equity in education for all people worldwide. We help teachers teach, students learn, and parents measure the educational progress of their children. We do this by:

- Listening to educators, parents, and critics
- Learning what students and their institutions need
- Leading in the development of new and innovative products and services

ETS customizes solutions to meet the need for teacher professional development products and services, classroom and end-of-course assessments, and research-based teaching and learning tools. Founded in 1947, ETS today develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide.
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NWEA® is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency—and provide insights to help tailor instruction. For 40 years, NWEA has developed Pre-K–12 assessments and professional learning offerings to help advance all students along their optimal learning paths. Our tools are trusted by educators in 145 countries and more than half the schools in the US.

Pearson is the world’s leading learning company, but we define our success not by our size but by the outcomes we help make possible. We serve states, districts, schools and colleges as they implement policies and practices to:

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- Create world-class experiences that make learning more personalized, connected and accessible for all students
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At Pearson, our sole mission is to help people make progress in their lives through learning.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the nation’s leading provider of K-12 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. PLTW’s world-class, activity-, project-, and problem-based curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate partners, help students develop the skills needed to succeed in our global economy. More than 8,000 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia currently offer PLTW courses to their students. For more information, visit www.pltw.org.

Some educators see data as facts and figures. But it’s more than that. It’s the lifeblood of your schools. It contains history. And it can tell you something about the future. SAS helps you make sense of the data. As the leader in education analytics software and services, SAS transforms your data into insights that give you a fresh perspective on your students, programs and schools. You can identify what’s working. Fix what isn’t. And discover new opportunities. Please visit sas.com/k12.

Scholastic is the most trusted name in learning with a brand that is synonymous with quality. Scholastic Education provides technology solutions and supplemental programs that support student achievement in PreK-12. Grounded in scientific research, Scholastic Education develops technology programs and services that include intervention, instruction,
universal screening, assessment, data management and professional development. Scholastic Achievement Partners—the professional services arm of Scholastic Education—brings together the International Center for Leadership in Education, Math Solutions, and Scholastic’s Implementation Services team to offer a full range of professional services in human capital development across content areas, comprehensive school improvement, and program implementation.

**LEVEL II PARTNERS**

**ACT**

ACT is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides assessment, research, information, and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development. Each year, we serve millions of people in high schools, colleges, professional associations, businesses, and government agencies, nationally and internationally. Though designed to meet a wide array of needs, all ACT programs and services have one guiding purpose – helping people achieve education and workplace success.

**AdvancED**

The world’s leader in accreditation and school improvement, AdvancED believes that students must be prepared to succeed in a constantly-evolving and diverse world and that educational institutions have a deep responsibility to deliver quality education to students from all walks of life.

We have been experts in accreditation and school improvement since 1895, and bring this 100+ years of experience and expertise through three US-based accreditation agencies - the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

The AdvancED Accreditation Process, a protocol embraced around the world, is a clear and comprehensive program of evaluation and external review, supported by research-based standards, and dedicated to helping schools, school systems, and education providers continuously improve.

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**Amplify**

Amplify is dedicated to reimagining K-12 education by creating digital products and services that empower students, teachers and parents with new curricular experiences, instructional tools, and extended learning opportunities. We are focused on transforming teaching and learning by creating and scaling digital innovations in three areas: insight, learning, and access.

Apple designs Macs, the best personal computers in the world, along with OS X, iLife, iWork and professional software. Apple leads the digital music revolution with its iPods and iTunes online store. Apple has reinvented the mobile phone with its revolutionary iPhone and App Store, and is defining the future of mobile media and computing devices with iPad.
Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization that provides counsel and solutions to advance the development of human capital systems, the use of strategic measures, practices for improving educator effectiveness, and communication with all stakeholders.

We believe that focusing on the right people, practices, measures, and messages is the key to educational excellence.

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success - including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

Curriculum Associates is a rapidly growing education company committed to making classrooms better places for teachers and students. We believe that all children have the chance to succeed, and this drives the decisions we make every day. Our research-based, award-winning products, including cloud-based i-Ready®, provide teachers and administrators with flexible resources that deliver meaningful assessments and data-driven, differentiated instruction for children. We serve millions of students with i-Ready® (adaptive diagnostic, online instruction, and practice apps for math and reading); Ready® (standards-based instruction build from scratch for the Common Core); BRIGANCE® (assessment and instruction for special education, early childhood, and Head Start); and other programs because of our laser focus on educators’ needs over our own bottom line and a belief that thoughtful and continuous innovation leads to a positive impact on classrooms and measureable growth for students.

For more than 30 years, DRC has ensured that our clients’ strengths are front and center in the development and implementation of assessment programs. We are the industry leader in engaging stakeholders—like teachers in the test development process and parents in report design—to ensure that our clients not only exceed their stakeholders’ expectations but also demonstrate their leadership. For more information, visit www.datarecognitioncorp.com.

KnowledgeWorks is a social enterprise focused on ensuring that every student experiences meaningful personalized learning that allows him or her to thrive in college, career and civic life. By offering a portfolio of innovative education approaches and advancing aligned policies, KnowledgeWorks seeks to activate and develop the capacity of communities and educators to build and sustain vibrant learning ecosystems that allow each student to thrive. Our portfolio includes, EDWorks and StriveTogether. http://knowledgeworks.org.
Measured Progress, a non-profit organization, is a pioneer in authentic, standards-based assessments. Since 1983, we have successfully partnered with more than 30 states and hundreds of districts across the nation to support their assessment programs. Today, we develop 21st century assessments for classrooms, districts, states, and collaboratives. We are proud to be the nation’s leading provider of alternate assessments for students with cognitive disabilities.

Measured Progress connects the K–12 educational community with innovative and flexible assessment solutions. Our goal is to provide meaningful information about student progress to improve teaching and learning. It’s all about student learning.

Founded in 1980, Measurement Incorporated is an employee-owned company that provides a complete range of testing services, assessment technologies, technical assistance, and program evaluation services under contract to state and local education agencies and professional associations. Headquartered in Durham, North Carolina, the company specializes in the development, administration, scoring, analysis, and reporting of large-scale, high-stakes testing programs.

A pioneer in the field of performance assessment, the company has established a distinctive competency in constructed response scoring using both highly-trained professionals and advanced artificial intelligence technology. MI’s corporate philosophy is built on an uncommon commitment to client satisfaction and its dedication to the overarching goal of Excellence in Assessment.

MetaMetrics, Inc., a privately held educational measurement company, develops scientifically based measures of student achievement that link assessment with instruction, foster better educational practices and improve learning by matching students with materials that meet and challenge their abilities. The company’s team of psychometricians developed the widely adopted Lexile Framework for Reading (www.Lexile.com); El Sistema Lexile para Leer, the Spanish-language version of the Lexile Framework; The Quantile Framework for Mathematics (www.Quantiles.com); and The Lexile Framework for Writing. In addition to licensing Lexile and Quantile measures to state departments of education, testing and instructional companies, and publishers, MetaMetrics delivers professional development, resource measurement and customized consulting services. For more information, visit www.MetaMetricsInc.com.

The National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) is the leading source for research-based and research-proven support for K-12 school leaders. Eight Chief State School Officers have selected NISL as a key strategy for raising student achievement within their states. NISL’s capacity-building train-the-trainer methodology allows states and districts to improve instructional leadership at scale and at low cost. States have leveraged NISL’s programs to develop novice leaders, create school turn-around artists, and impact instructional leadership statewide. Multiple third-party research studies have shown that NISL programs not only improve the effectiveness of school leaders, but also strengthen instruction and raise student achievement as measured on state tests.

We invite you to review the research studies and welcome the opportunity to introduce you to other Chief State School Officers to learn about their experience implementing our programs. To do so, and to learn how you can help raise student achievement by creating more effective school leaders, please visit NISL.org, call us at 913.909.1997 or email us at info@NISL.org.
Questar Assessment Inc. is a K–12 assessment solutions provider focused on building a bridge between learning and accountability. As a wholly-owned, independently-operated subsidiary of Educational Testing Service (ETS), we share a belief that better measurement solutions can make a positive impact on education. We take a fresh and innovative approach to design, delivery, scoring, analysis, and reporting. And we are reimagining how assessments can empower educators by giving them the insights they need to improve instructions and fully prepare students for college or career. Our high-quality, reliable assessment products and services are easily scaled and tailored to meet the specific needs of states and districts at an unprecedented value. Educators trust our high-performing teams and dependable technology to minimize risks and ensure success for states, districts, schools, teachers, and students.

RENAISSANCE®
Committed to our mission, Renaissance® is the leader in pre-K–12 learning analytics—enabling teachers, curriculum creators, and educators to drive phenomenal student growth. Renaissance’s solutions help educators analyze, customize, and plan personalized learning paths for students, allowing time for what matters— creating energizing learning experiences in the classroom.

Smarter Balanced is a public agency currently supported by 15 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Through the work of thousands of educators, we created an online assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), as well as tools for educators to improve teaching and learning. Our work is guided by the belief that a high-quality assessment system can provide information and tools for teachers and schools to improve instruction and help students succeed — regardless of disability, language, or subgroup.

TEACHERS of TOMORROW
Teachers of Tomorrow is the largest teacher certification program in the country. Founded in 2005, we have recruited, trained, certified and supported over 42,000 teachers. We work with states to meet all state teaching standards so that we can begin helping them solve the critical teacher shortage. We are accepted in Texas, Florida and Nevada and have applications submitted in Arizona and Indiana and legislation for acceptance in North and South Carolina. There is no cost to the state or district – the candidate pays - and they only pay a small up-front fee. The bulk of tuition is only paid to us if they secure a teaching job. We firmly stand behind the quality of our work. Teaching shortages are getting worse – we are ready to help.

As a leader in developing graphing handhelds, Texas Instruments Educational and Productivity Solutions, a business of Texas Instruments, is an education technology leader. For nearly 20 years, we have worked closely with leading educators in the design of our educational technology, training programs and support materials that enrich the math and science classroom learning experience worldwide. Our mission—provide essential tools that help teachers create an engaging learning experience leading to higher student achievement in math and science. Our vision—all students inspired to achieve their potential and become the innovators of tomorrow.

Wilson Language Training is dedicated to providing educators with the resources they need to help their students become fluent, independent readers. Wilson is a provider of professional development and research-based reading and spelling curricula for all ages. Its multisensory, structured curricula—the Wilson Reading System®, Wilson Fundations®, Wilson Just Words®, and Wilson Fluency®—have proven highly effective. Wilson also brings to the task two decades of professional development courses and ongoing teacher support. Partnering with public and private schools, as well as clinics and adult education centers across the country, Wilson strives toward its ultimate goal: literacy for all.
Save the Dates - CCSSO Member Meetings:

**Summer Leadership Convening**  
July 8-11, 2018  
Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT  
The Summer Leadership Convening is an annual opportunity for chiefs and their senior deputies to take part in rich discussion focused on leadership and shared professional development as executives. This meeting will provide a forum for members and partners to engage in shared learning in a more intimate setting than CCSSO’s other annual meetings.

**Annual Policy Forum**  
November 12-14, 2018  
The Westin Long Beach, Long Beach, CA  
The Annual Policy Forum focuses on CCSSO’s policies and priorities as a membership, learning from other state leaders, and conducting annual member business. The meeting is attended by chiefs, deputies, communications directors, federal liaisons business partners, foundation partners, and key partners in the education community.

**Legislative Conference**  
April 7-9, 2019  
Grand Hyatt, Washington, D.C.  
CCSSO’s Legislative Conference will focus on continued advocacy for strong state leadership in education, as well as discussions on next steps for implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act to deliver on the promise of an excellent education for all kids. The Legislative Conference typically includes opportunities to meet with senior officials from Congress, the White House, and the U.S. Department of Education. The Legislative Conference is CCSSO’s largest annual member meeting, and states are invited to send the chief, chief deputies, one communications director and a federal liaison. Additionally, CCSSO invites business and foundation partners, as well as leaders from other national education organizations.
SAVE THE DATE

Summer Leadership Convening

July 8-11, 2018
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