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Achieve Insights is a monthly briefing of newsworthy items from across states related to ensuring that all students graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and life.

Achieve launches new online ESSA tracker: state accountability plan comparison tool

Achieve recently released [a new online tracker](#) that summarizes components of states' accountability plans submitted to the U.S. Department of Education under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Achieve's online platform summarizes states' goals for student achievement, graduation rates, and progress toward English language proficiency, along with the other indicators and weighting that states plan to use for accountability purposes. This tool also allows for users to compare states' accountability metrics. [Take a look](#) to see what's in your state's accountability plan.

College-ready scores on Smarter Balanced or ACT earn college acceptance for South Dakota students

For the first time this year, students in South Dakota who earn a Level 3 or 4 on their 11th grade Smarter Balanced test in English and mathematics or an ACT composite score of 18 [will automatically earn acceptance](#) into the state's public universities and technical institutes. Recently, students received letters notifying them that they now have guaranteed general acceptance into postsecondary public institutions in the state, which include six public universities and four technical institutes. This is an example of a unique partnership between K–12 and higher education systems in a state, showing a commitment by South Dakota to not only help prepare students for college and

careers, but to also ensure that a college-ready determination on an assessment means just that: students are ready and can earn guaranteed acceptance into postsecondary education.

NGSS Parent Guides Now Available in Spanish

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are K–12 science content standards that set the expectations for students to be ready for college and careers, and have been adopted by 18 states and the District of Columbia. Building on the success of NGSS Parent Guides for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12, new versions for [Spanish-speaking parents](#) are embedded. These guides illustrate how the standards are a powerful foundation to help students build a cohesive understanding of science over time.

Five State Updates

- New Mexico [announced](#) it will adopt the Next Generation Science Standards with some state-specific additions after significant public response to previously proposed science standards, particularly regarding the proposed standards' lack of inclusion of evolution and climate change.
- Illinois' State Board of Education [set proficiency scores](#) for statewide SAT administration that are higher than the college-ready score set by College Board.
- Gov. Jerry Brown [signs California bill](#) officially ending the state's CAHSEE exit exams for graduation.
- New York's Board of Regents [discussed](#) potential changes to the state's graduation requirements.
- The Colorado Department of Education is [accepting public feedback](#) on revisions to the state's standards across content areas, including science, mathematics, and reading, writing, and communication.

*All students should graduate from high school
ready for college, careers, and citizenship.*

