

Fact Sheet: High School Transformation State Network

Purpose: The High School Transformation State Network (HSTSN) is a cohort of states working to examine their policies and practices and develop a shared understanding of evidence and best practices for enabling high school experiences that support content mastery and durable skills. NASBE, in partnership with KnowledgeWorks and in coordination with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, will lead network states in examining policy barriers and facilitators to co-design an action plan with students, higher education, and business communities to streamline workflows across sectors over two years.

Project goals:

- Establish a collaborative network of state teams made up of state boards of education, state policymakers in higher education and workforce development, and students and school leaders;
- Enhance state policymakers' understanding of the policies and implementation practices that facilitate or impede high school transformation;
- Improve alignment across education and workforce sectors and enable local innovation in the best interest of students; and
- Position state boards to enable change in their states and develop policies based on evidence-based practices and diverse stakeholder feedback.

Why action is needed:

- Only 34 percent of 12th graders say they are engaged in school. [[Gallup and Walton Family Foundation](#)]
- 12th grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data shows that 24 percent of students are proficient in mathematics and 37 percent in reading. [[NAEP 2019-20 SY](#)]
- Over two-thirds of high school students have earned at least one CTE credit, but less than half go on to earn two or three credits. [[U.S. Department of Education](#)]
- College persistence and retention rates have increased for students pursuing a bachelor's degree, however there are significant gaps for Hispanic, Black, and Native American students. [[National Student Clearinghouse Research Center](#)]

Benefits of state participation:

- Collaboration with peers from around the country working towards a similar mission of creating rigorous, relevant, and vibrant high school experiences;
- Connection to subject matter experts, research, policy experts, and stakeholder groups to identify evidence-based policies and practices and enhance state board leadership through the Project Advisory Council and Student Advisory Council;
- Dedicated work time with tailored professional development during in-person and virtual convenings;
- Enhanced communication with students and teachers and across state education and workforce sectors;

- Opportunities to elevate state successes and leadership to a national audience through NASBE platforms.

Organizational background: As a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, NASBE elevates state board members' voices in national and state policymaking, facilitates the exchange of informed ideas, and supports members in advancing equity and excellence in public education for students of all races, genders, and circumstances. KnowledgeWorks is a national nonprofit organization advancing a future of learning that ensures each student graduates ready for what's next. This project is managed by Celina Pierrottet, NASBE's associate program director. She can be reached at celina.pierrottet@nasbe.org.

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