

2015 INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE TEACHING PROFESSION COUNTRY UPDATE ON 2014 GOALS

UNITED STATES

Since the 2014 Summit, work on early learning, teacher leadership and labor management collaboration has continued and deepened in the United States. Educators at the local, state and national levels have been working hard to increase opportunities for teacher leadership and to facilitate labor management collaboration to support higher academic standards. Support for early learning to help children start school ready to learn is extensive at the federal and state levels and with the business community, leading to increased investments at the federal and state level.

Increased opportunities for teacher leadership to enhance student learning

- Just before the 2014 Summit, Secretary Duncan announced the Teach to Lead (TTL) initiative, a joint effort with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, aimed at advancing student outcomes by expanding opportunities for teacher leadership. National organizations, including the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), along with 63 other organizations have joined TTL as official supporters and critical friends.
- The partners have hosted three regional TTL summits, with the goal of bringing together educators from across the country to spotlight and advance innovative, teacher-led work that is happening in states, districts and schools. Supporting organizations provided critical feedback to advance the development of actionable leadership plans. They also amplified messages around teacher leadership in order to encourage support for and collaboration in TTL. Commit to Lead is the on-line community of TTL and is designed to allow educators to share and collaborate on promising ideas that advance teacher leadership and address pressing problems in education.

Supported ongoing labor management collaboration to implement higher academic standards

- National organizations including NEA, AFT and The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) joined the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in hosting a national conference to help district and state leaders plan together for effective standards implementation. The meeting brought together roughly 40 school districts from across the nation to share their progress and goals as they relate to the effective implementation of college and career ready standards.
- The Labor Management Co-Sponsors team has come together to create tools, networking and capacity building opportunities among all the public education stakeholder organizations nationally that promote the active involvement of teachers and their unions in effective implementation of college and career ready standards. *On the Same Page: Effective Implementation of College- and Career-Ready Standards through Labor-Management Collaboration* is a standards implementation planning tool created by six of the co-sponsoring national membership organizations.

Continued high-level commitment to expansion of high-quality early learning opportunities

- At the White House Early Learning Summit on Dec. 14th, President Obama announced over \$1 billion in private and public sector investments in early learning.
- ED, NEA and AFT, along with other groups, have pressed for the passage of the Strong Start Act, which would establish and finance federal-state partnerships to expand high quality public early childhood education. This has translated into a concerted push for Pre-K in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- Funding for early learning has increased at the federal and state levels.
 - ED's Preschool Development Grants provided \$226 million for 18 different states to expand their publically financed pre-k systems. In addition, \$500 million is going to support high quality infant and toddler care through the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grants.
 - States across the country are leading efforts to expand investment in high quality early childhood at the state level (including more than \$360 million in additional funding last year for Pre-K programs) and to support new approaches such as Minnesota's innovative Early Learning Scholarship program.