





<b>Connecticut</b> Gov. Dannel Malloy	Proposed partnering with the IBM Corporation and other local companies to develop a Connecticut version of P-TECH, IBM's acclaimed, innovative high school and college partnership, which will allow students to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate's degree.
<b>Mississippi</b> Gov. Phil Bryant	Called for additional funding to expand dual credit/dual enrollment programs for at-risk high school students and for students who wish to obtain work certificates.
<b>Tennessee</b> Gov. Bill Haslam	Called for expansion of the Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support Program (SAILS), which gives students extra support in math during their senior year in high school so they can avoid remediation when they enter college.

## Early learning

Understanding a large body of research shows high-quality pre-kindergarten can yield big returns for children and their communities, governors in at least 14 states and the mayor of D.C. highlighted early learning proposals in their 2014 addresses. The proposals focused primarily on expanding access to more young children in their states through increased funding, universal pre-K and public-private partnerships.

<b>Highlights: Early learning</b>	
<b>Connecticut</b> Gov. Dannel Malloy	Committed Connecticut to achieving universal pre-kindergarten, starting with an additional 1,020 early childhood opportunities next year, and expanding to 4,000 new opportunities by 2019.
<b>Hawaii</b> Gov. Neil Abercrombie	Proposed strengthening private and nonprofit sector partnerships in early education by the passage of constitutional amendment to provide for these partnerships.
<b>Indiana</b> Gov. Mike Pence	Called for establishment of a voluntary pre-K program to help low-income kids in the form of a voucher to be used where parents decide, including church-based, private or public programs.
<b>Missouri</b> Gov. Jay Nixon	Proposed tripling the amount of funding for preschool.

## Economic and workforce development

As states continue their recovery from the recent recession, economic and workforce development is on many leaders' minds. At least 13 governors described plans to create or strengthen partnerships between their education systems and business communities, with a focus on ensuring that graduates are prepared to fill the workforce needs of businesses in the state.

<b>Highlights: Economic and workforce development</b>	
<b>Alabama</b> Gov. Robert Bentley	Called for legislation creating a Statewide Workforce Council of business and industry leaders who will advise educators and colleges on the workforce needs in each region.

<p><b>Georgia</b> Gov. Nathan Deal</p>	<p>Proposed the Governor's High Demand Career Initiative through which the heads of economic development, the Georgia university system, technical colleges and schools, and private sector industries will discuss future workforce needs and give institutions guidance on preparing tomorrow's workforce.</p>
<p><b>Idaho</b> Gov. C.L. Otter</p>	<p>Called for improvements to the Workforce Development Training Fund program to allow more targeted use of grants for training employees not just for individual businesses, but for the market-driven growth of industry sectors that add value to the state's economy.</p>
<p><b>New Hampshire</b> Gov. Maggie Hassan</p>	<p>Proposed a new effort to partner manufacturing companies directly with classes at local schools to build relationships that will lead to a stronger workforce pipeline.</p>

## Higher education

As tuition expenses continue to increase, access to postsecondary education moves further out of reach for many students. Understanding that higher education is critical in an increasingly competitive global marketplace, governors in at least 17 states outlined proposals related to postsecondary education, a majority of them focused on tuition, financial aid and affordability issues. At least five governors called for a freeze on tuition rates.

<b>Highlights: Higher education</b>	
<p><b>Colorado</b> Gov. John Hickenlooper</p>	<p>Proposed adoption of a need-based financial allocation process that would support Coloradans with the highest need and incentivize retention and timely completion.</p>
<p><b>Connecticut</b> Gov. Dannel Malloy</p>	<p>Proposed a "Go Back to Get Ahead" program for students who began a degree program but have been out of school for more than 18 months, offering one free course for each course taken at a public college, up to three free courses in total, if the student matriculates.</p>
<p><b>Florida</b> Gov. Rick Scott</p>	<p>Recommended performance funding for postsecondary institutions, with \$80 million in the proposed budget for those colleges and universities that graduate students best positioned to get a job.</p>
<p><b>New York</b> Gov. Andrew Cuomo</p>	<p>Proposed providing full tuition scholarships to any SUNY or CUNY college or university to the top 10 percent of high school graduates if they pursue a STEM career and then work in New York for five years.</p>
<p><b>Ohio</b> Gov. John Kasich</p>	<p>Introduced student performance-based funding for colleges and universities, proposing that, rather than basing funding on enrollment, funding will be provided only if students complete courses or degrees.</p>
<p><b>Pennsylvania</b> Gov. Tom Corbett</p>	<p>Called for launch of the Ready to Succeed Scholarship program to provide an additional \$25 million for middle income students who want to earn a two- or four-year degree, with grants going to academically achieving students who otherwise may not be able to attain enough financial aid.</p>
<p><b>Tennessee</b> Gov. Bill Haslam</p>	<p>Called for the investment of \$13 million to fund the Complete College Act, which incentivizes colleges and universities based on the number of graduates instead of enrollment.</p>

## K-12 finance

Many school districts across the country experienced big decreases in funding in the years after the 2008 economic crisis. Looking to restore some of that funding, governors in at least 12 states and the mayor of D.C. have made K-12 funding a priority.

<b>Highlights: K-12 funding</b>	
<b>District of Columbia</b> Mayor Vincent Gray	Proposed an additional investment of \$116 million in public education, which would include for the first time dedicated funds for the District's neediest students in the form of an "at-risk" weight aimed at narrowing the resource gap for students who have been historically underfunded, including middle and high school students, English-language learners, adult learners and students in alternative schools.
<b>Mississippi</b> Gov. Phil Bryant	Called for a high-growth funding formula for districts that continue to take on more students.
<b>Missouri</b> Gov. Jay Nixon	Proposed increasing K-12 funding by \$278 million to put the state on a path to fully funding the foundation formula.
<b>South Carolina</b> Gov. Nikki Haley	Called for school districts to receive a 20 percent increase per student for every child that falls into the poverty index, totaling \$100 million in additional state dollars.
<b>Washington</b> Gov. Jay Inslee	Proposed a \$200 million investment in local school districts, and called for funding a cost-of-living adjustment for educators.

## Teacher compensation

A high-quality education system depends on having highly effective teachers in every classroom. Seeking to attract and retain great teachers, governors in at least 10 states included teacher compensation in their address, with calls for pay increases or compensation policy changes.

<b>Highlights: Teacher compensation</b>	
<b>Delaware</b> Gov. Jack Markell	Called for an improved approach to educator compensation that will attract and retain great teachers and allow teachers to receive additional compensation for pursuing leadership opportunities while remaining in the classroom.
<b>New Mexico</b> Gov. Susana Martinez	Proposed supporting teachers with advancement opportunities such as being able to become a principal in two years instead of six and called for raising minimum starting teachers' salaries by 10 percent.
<b>New York</b> Gov. Andrew Cuomo	Called for the creation of a Teacher Excellence Fund to help school districts reward the most effective teachers by making highly effective teachers in participating school districts eligible for annual supplemental compensation.
<b>West Virginia</b> Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin	Proposed an across the board salary increase of 2 percent for all teachers and education service personnel.

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## For more information

The Education Commission of the States has reviewed governors' state-of-the-state addresses for education priorities since 2005. Visit our [online database](#) to learn about education priorities in previous years. The database is searchable by year, by state and by issue.

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