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**Date:** Sat, 3/3/2012 3:20:02 PM

**Subject:** State Actions - Turning Reform Into Reality

**Attachments:** image001.wmz

## State Actions – Turning Reform into Reality

Legislative Sessions are in full swing and states across the country are considering policies to improve student achievement. Here is a quick snapshot of states that have voted to advance reforms this week.

### Arizona:

This week was school choice week in the Arizona Capitol. Governor Jan Brewer signed into law an expansion of the state's tax credit scholarship and the House voted to allow children in Arizona's failing public schools to receive Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). In addition, the Senate advanced legislation to empower parents of children in failing schools to pick the best reform option to improve their school.

### Florida:

The House and Senate advanced reforms to expand choice and reward student achievement. The Florida House and the Senate Budget Committee passed the Parent Empowerment Bill to give parents the information and tools they need to be actively involved in their child's education. Last but certainly not least, the Florida State Board of Education also voted this week to hold schools accountable for the learning achievements of all students by approving a provision to include academic performance of students with disabilities and English Language Learners.

### Georgia:

Thanks to the leadership of Senator Chip Rogers, the Georgia Senate advanced legislation that expands online education options and prepares students for an increasingly digital world by requiring students to take one online course and school districts to offer part and full-time virtual instruction programs.

### Minnesota:

Representatives Petersen, Garofalo, and Myhra and Senator Wolf have successfully advanced through the House and Senate reforms to ensure there is an effective teacher in every Minnesota classroom. It now goes to Governor Dayton's desk where its fate is uncertain.

### Mississippi:

House Education Committee advanced legislation to expand traditional and virtual charter schools.

### Utah:

Under the leadership of Senator Niederhauser, Senate Bill 175, which will guide the implementation of A-F school grades, has cleared the Senate and is now moving to the House Education Committee. Additionally, an attempt to roll-back the reforms Utah adopted last year making it a model for the nation in digital learning was not successful.

### Virginia:

Legislators in Virginia continue to move forward elements of Governor McDonnell's Opportunity to Learn platform. Both chambers have adopted a suite of reforms to expand private and public school choice and place a command focus on reading.

### Wisconsin:

Senate Education Committee advanced reforms to improve literacy and add student outcomes to teacher evaluations.

The **Foundation for Excellence in Education** is igniting a movement of reform, state by state, to transform education for the 21st century economy.

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