

STEP UP TO SUCCESS...

A TA Initiative for Persistently Dangerous Schools, Gen I and II
Thru M. H. West & Co., Inc. for the Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

January 29, 2011



Teacher Professional Learning in the United States: State Policies and Strategies: A Technical Report

A summary by WEST of a Technical Report prepared by Learning Forward & the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education

<http://www.learningforward.org/news/2010Phase3TechnicalReport.pdf>



Issues	Solution	Next Steps
<p>Effective teaching and strong leadership are keys to student development and success. Professional development is the single most important strategy for improving teacher knowledge, skills, dispositions, and practices. Comparing the policies and practices for professional development in four states can provide insight into strategies that can be used to improve teacher quality. The states are Colorado, Missouri, New Jersey, and Vermont, which have made significant gains in student performance, and have high teacher participation in professional development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State education agencies provided strategic guidance and oversight in developing standards to guide accountability• There were established mechanisms for monitoring quality.• Induction and mentoring programs for beginning teachers are required• Used policy tools to leverage collegial strategies for professional learning• Partnered with professional organizations and universities to strengthen and support professional development• Networking with intermediary organizations to provide instructional program supports• Addressed federal mandates and accountability requirements in constructive ways• Skillfully marshaled resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a common and clearly articulated vision for professional development that permeates policy and practices• Effectively monitor professional development quality• Develop mentoring and induction requirements that are linked to and create a foundation for ongoing professional learning• Develop an infrastructure of organizations for facilitating professional development• Maintain stability of resources

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George Washington University Launches Online Prep School

A summary by WEST of an article appearing in The Washington Post, January 22, 2011

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/22/AR2011012203454.html>



Issues	Solution	Next Steps
<p>Online learning may be the next logical step in the evolution of university “lab schools”. Online instruction has the potential to replace the factory model of traditional public education. It allows students to progress at their own pace. In the ideal online classroom, no lesson is ever too fast or too slow, and no one ever falls behind. However, it is unclear how adolescents will fare in an online school, which requires students to take charge of their own learning.</p>	<p>George Washington University has opened a private college-preparatory high school that will operate entirely online. It is one of the nation’s first “virtual” secondary schools to be affiliated with a major research university.* Sixteen students from nine states, form the initial class. Annual tuition is \$9,995. Operated by K12 Inc., more than 100 custom-designed courses are offered. Students are taught in small online virtual classrooms that might link to their teacher by audio, video, text-messaging or e-mail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate for whom the online school concept works, under what conditions, and when does it work.• Enroll more students and add a 12th grade in the fall of 2011.

*According to federal data there were 506,950 students enrolled in computer-based distance learning public schools in 2005. Online high schools have operated in Michigan, Arizona, Wisconsin, Oregon and California, among others. In 2006, Stanford University opened the first online high school for gifted students.

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Obama Makes Education a State of Union Centerpiece

A summary by WEST of an article appearing in Education Week, January 25, 2011

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2011/01/state_of_the_union_coverage.html



Issues	Solution	Next Steps
Because the quality of the United States educational system has dropped in the world order, President Obama used his 2011 State of the Union address to put education front-and-center on the national agenda and the agenda of the newly divided Congress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tying education proposals to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).• Spending more on education as part of a campaign to “win the future”.• Obtaining bipartisan Congressional cooperation on education• Changing the “No Child Left Behind Act”• Changing the “Race to the Top” competition by replacing the law’s main yardstick--Adequate Yearly Progress-- to a new one aimed at measuring whether students are ready for college or a career; and moving towards a growth model, where schools get credit for improving individual students’ progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Train 100,000 teachers in mathematics, science, technology, and engineering (STEM)• Reward good teachers and stop making excuses for bad ones• Restructure federal education funding• Allow talented foreign students who pursue higher education to stay and contribute to the economy• Pass the DREAM ACT, which provides a path to citizenship for undocumented students who pursue higher education or join the military• Make permanent the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which can provide up to \$10,000 for four years of college.