

ACT[®] State Organizations

Overview and Goals for ACT State Organizations

ACT State Organizations is comprised of thousands of education and workforce professionals working together to advance college and career readiness for all. ACT State Organizations exist in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The United States is split into five regional districts. Membership in the organizations is completely voluntary, and members are experts in their fields and champions for ACT. Members believe in the ACT mission of helping people achieve education and workplace success and have the desire to help others act on this philosophy.

The ACT State Organizations Steering Committee develops a strategic focus for the ACT State Organizations. The Steering Committee is comprised of: the ACT senior vice president of State and Federal Programs; ACT senior director of State Organizations; ACT district managers; and three council members from each State Organization district. The three elected council members from each district must represent K-12, postsecondary, and workforce development.

Each ACT State Organization has a Council serving in a leadership capacity for the State organization and as a liaison between the State Organization and ACT. Councils work closely with ACT to determine activities and initiatives in the state that support the ACT mission.

These goals were developed by the Steering Committee in collaboration with Council leaders and ACT. These goals demonstrate the vision of ACT State Organizations: to eliminate the skills gap by connecting the outcomes of K-12 and postsecondary to career opportunities. Councils should use these goals to meet the needs of their state and ACT State Organizations. ACT State Organization activities and initiatives may extend beyond the listed activity ideas.

ACT Mission

Helping people achieve education and workplace success

ACT State Organizations Mission

Building a community of educators and workplace professionals to help people achieve education and workplace success

Vision

Eliminate the skills gap by connecting the outcomes of K-12 and postsecondary to career opportunities

Represented in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

5 districts, each with a district manager
who serves as the facilitator for council members within their district and maintains a direct connection to ACT.

Goals for ACT State Organizations

GOAL 1 Increase awareness of academic and career advancement policy, research, and best practices

Objective A *Identify and promote best practices associated with career exploration and Attainment*

Activity Ideas:

- Engage local employers to interact with secondary and postsecondary institutions
- Encourage individuals to share their college and career experiences, advice, and expectations

Objective B *Identify and promote nonacademic indicators of success*

Activity Ideas:

- Promote usage of social and emotional learning indicators and tools
- Promote training, support, and professional development opportunities for teachers and principals to hone their strategies for the “whole learner”

Objective C *Increase understanding of College and Career Readiness benchmarks, standards, and education data*

Activity Ideas:

- Support opportunities to learn about data literacy for educators, parents, and students
- Share the ACT Holistic Framework™

GOAL 2 Identify innovative solutions that advance successful collaborations between academic and workforce development efforts

Objective A *Promote and recommend partnerships between postsecondary institutions and businesses with secondary schools*

Activity Ideas:

- Integrate successful ACT® Work Ready Community partners and local businesses into learning events, council meetings, and conference calls
- Recognize successful partnerships through council recognition, invitations to participate in learning events, etc.

Objective B *Enlist business partners to identify needs in the labor market and identify solutions*

Activity Ideas:

- Familiarize council and members with labor projections to inform current practices as well as predict those needed in the coming years
- Determine a way to share labor market trends and opportunities for local and state improvement

GOAL 3 Advocate for policies to support and address academic and workforce Issues

Objective A *Increase support for dual enrollment programs through policy and/or initiatives*

Activity Ideas:

- Advocate for local/state legislation and/or policy changes that promote and/or finance dual enrollment opportunities
- Assist secondary and postsecondary institutions in creating dual enrollment programs that address business needs within the local area

- Assess obstacles and provide potential solutions addressing access to and needs of dual enrollment programs

Objective B *Advocate for credentialed career exploration classes in secondary schools, leveraging community employers where possible*

Activity Ideas:

- Promote the creation of a credit-bearing career exploration class for high school
- Support the integration of career exploration into existing curriculum
- Engage local business and industries in either an on-site visit to the business or bringing business representatives to the school

Objective C *Support the establishment of vocational/technical programs between secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, and community employers*

Activity Ideas:

- Create a partnership between secondary schools and postsecondary institutions and ask representatives to meet at least quarterly to assess needs, program processes, etc.
- Promote and advocate for the creation of vocational/technical program that address the business needs specific to the area
- Ensure vocational/technical programs bear a workplace credential or transferable skill

Objective D *Identify a portable, stackable, transferable credential that addresses workplace success skills*

Activity Ideas:

- Engage ACT® Work Ready Communities and their partners to promote the ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate® (ACT® WorkKeys® NCRC®) as a stackable credential
- Advocate, through articulation agreements, a stackable, transferable credential of basic workplace skills
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GOAL 4 *Develop, leverage, and support initiatives that promote advancement of educational equity and access for all*

Objective A *Ensure the work of State Organizations creates an environment of equity and access through themes, speakers, and sessions*

Activity Ideas:

- Learn about and discuss national and statewide equity and access research and initiatives during State Org council calls and meetings and at State Organizations conferences
- Develop and share actionable State Organizations communications (webinars, slides, collateral, social media campaigns, videos) that tell stories about state-specific equity and access issues and research
- Identify community-based and equity and access organizations for partnership opportunities and invite them to engage with councils and State Organizations

Objective B *Understand the role and optimize the resources of the ACT Center for Equity in Learning (CEL)*

Activity Ideas:

- Familiarize council and State Organizations members with ACT CEL through review of CEL research and blog and presentations from CEL staff

- Identify key state-specific needs and issues through State Organizations and council conversation and share insights with CEL (guest blogs, potential partnerships)
- Share existing CEL resources with key stakeholders: students, families, educators, workforce leaders, policymakers

Objective C *Increase learner access to educational and career opportunities and social, emotional, and behavioral support services*

Activity Ideas:

- Work with ACT to identify advocacy opportunities for systemic change and for equity and access for all
- Create connections within individual State Organizations to encourage sharing of resources and information among K-12, postsecondary, and workforce partners (college application partnership programs, pathways programs)
- Increase awareness of and active engagement with ACT Holistic Framework™, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) research and resources among councils and State Organizations