PAG Policy Unit:
What we do and where we are headed
Presenter Information

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What we do

The PAG Policy unit aims to inform and influence education and workforce policymaking at both the federal and state levels. The Policy unit also strives to build and engage federal, state, and thought-leader relationships and position ACT solutions with stakeholders.

The Policy unit is made up of five individuals: Michelle Croft (Principal Research Associate), Gretchen Guffy (Policy Director), Greg Kienzl (Senior Research Associate), Rich Lee (Senior Policy Analyst) and Dan Vitale (Senior Associate).
Policy Platforms: Released in December 2014, the K-12, Postsecondary and Workforce Policy Platforms guide our work.
Extensions of Policy Platforms: The Policy unit’s work can be categorized into five discrete but related areas, with the Policy Platforms existing at the core of the work.
Public Outreach: *Field Notes* is a resource for district, region, and state leaders to understand their area’s education and workforce progress

- More than 120 packets have been distributed to policymakers in key states and to selected U.S. House and Senate Committee members
- Plans to create for every federal and state policymaker
**Stakeholder Surveys:** Administered in October 2014, State Org members were asked what are the most pressing education and workforce issues

- Findings include:

  - **College and career readiness** was identified by all three types of respondents (K-12, Postsecondary, and Workforce) as a top issue facing education and workforce today

  - Among K-12 respondents, other important issues were assessments, accountability systems, and student achievement

  - Among Postsecondary respondents, other top issues were degree completion, affordability, and retention/persistence

  - Among Workforce respondents, other important issues were state appropriations, economic/workforce development, industry-recognized credentials, and targeted workforce training

- Results of the survey confirmed prior research and will influence potential future research/policy projects
Reports and Briefs: Deeper dives into issues discussed in the Policy Platforms

- Policy unit members have written on a variety of topics to provide the education community with valuable, research-based information (e.g. End of Erasures, Communicating Proficiency Standards, Validity evidence for Value-Added Measures, etc.)

- Work on relevant topics will continue to position ACT as a thought leader in the education policy community
Bill Tracking & Analysis: Monitoring legislation to help identify opportunities to shape legislative action that support and/or protect ACT’s programs and solutions

- **CQ StateTrack**
  - CQ StateTrack emails new bills and updates from all 50 states and the federal government
  - Bills are sorted and identified based on importance to ACT

- **Bill Tracker**
  - New bills, and updates to existing bills, are added to the Bill Tracker

- **PAG Discussion**
  - PAG’s Government Relations and Policy units discuss bills
  - Next steps are determined and updates are made to bills being tracked
Bill Tracking & Analysis: The ACT Solutions bill tracker organizes bills by state and importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>INTRODUCED DATE</th>
<th>BILL NUMBER</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY</th>
<th>SECTOR AFFECTED (K-12, PSE, WF)</th>
<th>RELEVANT ACT PRODUCTS</th>
<th>ACT STATUS</th>
<th>NEXT STEPS/ACTION ITEMS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>1/28/2015</td>
<td>HB 85</td>
<td>Pending in education committee</td>
<td>STUDENT DATA &amp; ASSESSMENTS</td>
<td>Data Privacy Bill</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>ACT Aspire</td>
<td>MONITOR</td>
<td>Data Privacy Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>2/5/2015</td>
<td>SB 172</td>
<td>2/19/15 Referred to Com. on ED.</td>
<td>Pupil testing: high school exit examination: suspension,</td>
<td>This bill would suspend the administration of the high school exit examination and would remove the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school for each pupil completing grade 12, for the 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19 school years.</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>ACT Aspire, ACT</td>
<td>MONITOR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>2/25/2015</td>
<td>HB 3196</td>
<td>3/10/15 Assigned to Elementary &amp; Secondary Education</td>
<td>EDUC-POSTSECONDARY/WORKFORCE</td>
<td>Bill requires the State Superintendent of Education to establish and select individuals to serve as members of one or more advisory committees responsible for delivering recommendations concerning competency-based high school graduation requirements, student readiness for college-level instruction, and early college credit.</td>
<td>PSE, Workforce</td>
<td>WorkKeys</td>
<td>HOPPER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>1/29/2015</td>
<td>SB 2161</td>
<td>3/17/15 (H) Returned For Concurrence</td>
<td>Common Core National Education Standards; SBE shall develop and implement new curriculum and assessment standards.</td>
<td>Common Core National Education Standards; SBE shall develop and implement new curriculum and assessment standards.</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>ACT Aspire</td>
<td>PRIORITY</td>
<td>Bill currently being redlined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**State:** Alaska

**HB deadline:** 2.23

**SB deadline:** 2.23

**Bill number:** HB 85

**Status:** Referred to Education Committee; 1 sponsor

**Assessment provision:** No

**Research provision:** No

**Commercial use provision:** Would prohibit a school, district or the department from using student data that contains PII for “a commercial purpose,” defined to include marketing of products or services or the development of products or services.

**Data destruction provision:** No

**Student profiling provisions:** No

**High level summary:** Entitled “An Act relating to college and career ready assessments for secondary students; and relating to restrictions on the collection, storage, and handling of student data," this bill would permit any secondary student to opt not to take a college and career readiness assessment....
Bill Tracking & Analysis: Map of key data privacy legislation being tracked by the Policy unit

**Green** states are SOPIPA States (Hawaii not shown)

**Red** states Microsoft SUPER States (Alaska not shown)

**Blue** states are “Other” States
Bill Tracking & Analysis: Collateral is developed as needed

For bills deemed “priority,” the Policy unit helps determine an outreach strategy (e.g., sending letters and information to and/or requesting meetings with bill sponsors)
Relationship Building: External partnerships and outreach efforts help build our profile in the education and workplace spaces

- Hosted *ACT Leaders and Linkages* policy forum in December 2014

- Partnering with Harvard and Vanderbilt on Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support (SAILS), a developmental education reform project

- Partnering with Abt Associates and College Board on a college advising project (Upward Bound participants)

- Participated in White House-sponsored meeting at Harvard on college advising and counseling

- Present research at national conferences, including CCSSO, AASCU, AERA, and ASHE
Where we are headed

• Expand policy platform topics: Develop publications on noncognitive behaviors, student growth measures, the use of the ACT test, and the condition of ACT Work Ready Communities

• Continue tracking state and federal legislation relating to ACT’s work in education and the workforce space:
  – Data privacy
  – ESEA, HEA, WIOA
  – Assessments and accountability (e.g. assessment peer review)
  – Statewide ACT adoption

• State transitions to ACT Aspire
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Questions?