

## Constituent and Policy Group Initiatives Funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Prepared by the National High School Alliance

Organization	Goals & Strategies	Description	Recent Accomplishments	Contact Person
<i>Constituent Groups</i>				
<b>Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)</b>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To keep the chief school officers in the states informed about innovative high school redesign efforts, particularly in the NGA Honor States</li> </ul> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policy and issue briefs</li> <li>▪ Quarterly newsletters on high school redesign</li> <li>▪ High school redesign networks</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance to states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Policy and issue briefs:</i> Publish two policy and issue briefs on policies related to high schools and redesign efforts per year in the next two years</li> <li>▪ <i>Quarterly Newsletters:</i> Publish four quarterly newsletters on the states and high school redesign beginning in December 2005.</li> <li>▪ <i>High School Redesign Networks:</i> Create high school redesign networks in the states that will communicate through monthly conference calls and periodic web-conferences.</li> <li>▪ <i>Technical Assistance:</i> Provide TA to three states (TBD) with low performing high schools in 2006 and 2007.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ April newsletter is currently being developed</li> </ul>	Angela Hernandez-Marshall Senior Associate, High School Reform angelahm@ccsso.org
<b>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)</b>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To improve high school completion rates and college readiness among minority students</li> </ul> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stay in School Rallies</li> <li>▪ High School Graduation Media Campaign Kick-Off</li> <li>▪ National Data Book</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Stay in School Rallies:</i> Host Stay in School Rallies in designated states to inform community members about the importance of obtaining a high school diploma and increasing the value of the high school diploma.</li> <li>▪ <i>High School Graduation Media Campaign Kick-Off:</i> Host a media and community attended kick-off event to raise awareness about the importance of high school completion and college</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completed Higher Education Report with HS Reform Section sponsored by BMGF to mail to NGA/BMGF and each Governor</li> <li>▪ Have data for 7 states with Harvard CRP, will reach out to ETS &amp; Schoolmatters</li> <li>▪ Held meeting with AEE</li> </ul>	Nicole Francis-Williams, Education Policy & Research Manager nfrancis@naacpnet.org

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publications</li> <li>▪ Training and professional development</li> <li>▪ Guest speaker series</li> </ul>	<p>readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National Data Book:</i> Work with NGA, ETS, and Schoolmatters to compile a National Data Book annually that will focus on topics directly related to African American youth.</li> <li>▪ <i>Training and professional development:</i> Create professional development module that will include a core group of NAACP Constituent Trainers and a publication on quality teacher recruitment and retention.</li> <li>▪ <i>Guest speaker series and symposia:</i> Highlight professionals in the field of school accountability and minority student attainment.</li> </ul>	<p>on 1/28/2006, second meeting is planned for April 27</p>	
<p><b>National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)</b></p>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To educate, inform, and empower State Boards of Education to make informed policy choices to improve high schools in their states.</li> </ul> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State policy audits</li> <li>▪ Publications and website updates</li> <li>▪ High school redesign sessions at NASBE meetings</li> <li>▪ Write policy briefs/updates</li> <li>▪ Highlight state reform efforts through profiles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>State policy audits:</i> Conduct audits for alignment to best practices, with recommendations for policy changes. Audits will include interviews with State Board of Education members, key education agency staff to determine challenges and successes of state high school policy. They will conclude with a written report to the Board and the Chief State School Officer on what actions can be taken to enhance and amend high school policies.</li> <li>▪ <i>Publications and website updates:</i> Use the website, publications, and updates to share information and research on high school redesign.</li> <li>▪ <i>High school redesign sessions:</i> Highlight the work of the American Diploma Project, the Honors State Program, the National High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wrote and disseminated a policy update on graduation rates and a fact sheet on the non-negotiable requirements for Honor States</li> <li>▪ Developed a section of NASBE’s website to focus on high school redesign</li> <li>▪ Developing a Policy Update on exit exams.</li> </ul>	<p>Carlas McCauley Project Director carlasm@nasbe.org</p>

		Alliance, and the Alliance for Excellent Education, as well as the best practices of State Boards of Education in high school redesign, at their two national meetings.		
<b>National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)</b>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement the <i>Breaking Ranks II</i> program in all of the NGA Phase I Honor States</li> </ul> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certify 20 <i>Breaking Ranks II</i> trainers in each Phase I Honor State</li> <li>Articles, publications and information on NASSP website, highlighting lessons learned and best practices</li> <li>Presentation at national conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Breaking Ranks II trainers:</i> Certify 20 trainers in each of the Phase I Honor States in the <i>Breaking Ranks II</i> program through a three-day training session. Trainers will facilitate training for other administrators in their state, work with school leadership teams, and serve as representatives, speakers, and facilitators at various state meetings and conferences.</li> <li><i>Articles, publications, and website information:</i> Highlight the findings and lessons learned from the trainings through articles and publications posted on the NASSP website.</li> <li><i>Presentation at national conference:</i> Outline major findings and recommendations at a national convening of state school officers and other state education leaders at the conclusion of the second year of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have developed an evaluation to assess the trainers' work</li> </ul>	<p>Dick Flanary Director of Professional Development Programs <a href="mailto:flanaryd@principals.org">flanaryd@principals.org</a></p> <p>Irina Terehoff terehoffi@principals.org</p>
<b>National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)</b>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support legislators and build legislative capacity for high school redesign in the NGA Honor States</li> </ul> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working groups on high school redesign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Working groups:</i> Create working groups on high school redesign in each of the NGA Honor States. State legislators who participated in the original state plan applications, members of legislative leadership, and members of the Education Committees in each of the Honor States will participate. Each</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spring Forum session (Friday, April 7) focused on four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates as well as issues in high school reform and approaches to drop-out prevention</li> </ul>	<p>Sunny Deye Education Policy Specialist <a href="mailto:sunny.kristin@ncsl.org">sunny.kristin@ncsl.org</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sessions on high school reform at NCSL meetings</li> <li>▪ Publications and articles about NGA Honor States activities</li> </ul>	<p>group will develop a work plan specific to its state. NCSL will regularly evaluate how legislators are progressing with their work plan and provide background information and research, audits of current state policy, and supporting state research and data collection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Sessions at NCSL annual and local meetings:</i> Presentations on high school redesign at NCSL annual meetings and at other meetings, such as the Legislative Education Staff Network seminars or meetings conducted by the Children and Families Program or the Labor Program.</li> <li>▪ <i>Publications and articles:</i> Produce a brief detailing the legislative accomplishments of the Honor States, including the best practices, challenges, and outcomes. NCSL will also publish a series of 3-4 briefs that will detail the accomplishments of the Phase I Honor States and provide practical information about how each of the Honor States put together comprehensive plans for high school redesign.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rewriting “Costs of New School Designs” publication</li> <li>▪ Completing “Innovative State Strategies for High School Redesign”</li> </ul>	
<b>State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)</b>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To improve relationships between the higher education community and the K-12 community and to create more visible engagement of higher education leaders in high</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Update current publications:</i> Update and publish a second edition of SHEEO’s 2003 publication, <i>Student Success: Statewide P-16 Systems</i> and include information about approaches to achieving better alignment of policy and practice.</li> <li>▪ <i>Working meetings for state K-16 teams:</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Second edition of “Student Success” published</li> </ul>	<p>Sharmila Basu Conger Policy Analyst sbconger@sheeo.org</p> <p>Paul Lingenfelter President</p>

	<p>school redesign efforts</p> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update current publications</li> <li>▪ Working meetings for state K-16 teams</li> <li>▪ Conference for higher education executives from states highly engaged in high school redesign</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance to states</li> </ul>	<p>Convene between two and four working meetings for state teams consisting of leaders in higher education and K-12 counterparts to develop action plans for their state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Conference for higher education executives:</i> Convene a conference for the higher education executives from the NGA Honor States, Achieve ADP states, and selected other states engaged in high school redesign to discuss postsecondary education's role in K-12 reform and high school redesign. Higher education leaders will create a statement of principles and strategies for higher education to improve student preparation.</li> <li>▪ <i>Technical assistance:</i> Provide TA to four or five states on a competitive basis. TA will consist of individual consulting services, personnel exchanges, and workshops to broaden engagement by local leaders.</li> </ul>		<p>plingenfelter@sheeo.org</p>
<b>Policy Groups</b>				
<p><b>Achieve, Inc.</b></p>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To ensure that American Diploma Project (ADP) states develop and implement standards, assessments, curriculum and accountability mechanisms that are aligned with the demands of postsecondary education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Network Support Services Unit:</i> Develop a network support services unit responsible for helping states develop, implement and build support for their plans to implement the ADP agenda. Will also convene the leadership teams from ADP Network states annually to review research and tools as well as to share strategies for addressing common challenges in implementing the ADP agenda.</li> </ul>		<p>Mike Cohen Executive Director mcohen@achieve.org</p>

	<p>and work, help increase the percentage of students who make a successful transition from secondary to postsecondary education, and promote effective high school reform.</p> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Network Support Services Unit</li> <li>▪ Alignment Institutes</li> <li>▪ Annual state status reports</li> <li>▪ Advocacy tools and research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Alignment Institutes:</i> Convene a set of Alignment Institutes to help leadership teams in each state plan, organize and successfully lead the process of aligning high school and “college ready” standards in their state.</li> <li>▪ <i>Annual state status reports:</i> Develop and produce a 50-state annual report on state progress toward addressing the ADP policy agenda. Report will highlight progress made, existing gaps, and best practices.</li> <li>▪ <i>Advocacy tools and research:</i> Create advocacy tools that help make the case for the ADP policy agenda. Achieve will highlight state data profiles demonstrating student progress, create a tool describing and making the case for key elements of a state data system for tracking students through the pipeline. Achieve will conduct ongoing research to inform state efforts and focus press attention on ADP’s policy agenda.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF)</b></p>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To help state education policymakers learn about innovative strategies in high school redesign, allow them to see examples of this work, and build their commitment to undertaking this agenda in their own communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Field trips:</i> Work with the National Conference of State Legislatures to organize field trips for state policymakers from Honor States and ADP states to help them better understand promising and effective programs and policies to support high school redesign efforts. Will visit schools, districts, and states that have developed innovative programs to see how federal and state funding, legislation, regulations, and policies are</li> </ul>		<p>Betsy Brand Director bbrand@aypf.org</p>

	<p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Field trips to innovative high school redesign programs</li> <li>▪ Summaries of trips and final report</li> </ul>	<p>used to support or inhibit redesign efforts, meet leaders of effective reforms, and engage in conversations about reform issues with colleagues with diverse perspectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Summaries and final report:</i> Prepare summaries after each trip with a description of the schools or programs visited. At the end of the project, AYPF will prepare final report that will summarize lessons learned and make policy recommendations.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>National Association of System Heads (NASH)</b></p>	<p><i>Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To draw higher education leaders into more active roles in high school redesign work and to create more productive partnerships between higher education and K-12 education</li> </ul> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Articles for higher education periodicals</li> <li>▪ Create working teams of P-16 leaders</li> <li>▪ Publications on topics related to the P-16 pipeline</li> <li>▪ Breakout sessions at national meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Articles for higher education periodicals:</i> Write articles on the importance of higher education engagement with high school redesign for the <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> and other higher education periodicals.</li> <li>▪ <i>Teams of P-16 leaders:</i> Convene teams of leaders in the P-16 pipeline at annual summer institute to focus on two or three significant topics in high school redesign, followed by issue-focused sessions on high priority topics.</li> <li>▪ <i>Publications:</i> Produce baseline surveys of existing indicators of success of high school graduates as reported by the higher ed systems and reports about successful work in selected states.</li> <li>▪ <i>Breakout sessions:</i> Conduct breakout sessions on the topic of high school redesign at the annual meetings of key national higher education associations.</li> </ul>		<p>Janis Somerville, Staff Director jsomerville@edtrust.org</p>