



THE COLLECTIVE VOICE OF  
HIGH-QUALITY PROVIDERS

EARLY CARE  
AND EDUCATION  
CONSORTIUM

## 2016 State of the State Addresses

*\*31 Republicans*

*\*18 Democrats*

*\*1 Independent*

State	Date	State Governor	Education Focus
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Robert J. Bentley	<p><i>Through the Office of School Readiness, Alabama's First Class Pre-K is consistently ranked among the best in the nation and serves as a model for other states.</i></p> <p><i>We are working to give young children a 'new, strong foundation' with the opportunity for a good education in a voluntary Pre-K program.</i></p> <p><i>Children who attend Pre-K are more likely to read at grade level quicker, their math scores are higher and they are less likely to need special education services.</i></p> <p><i>That is why in this year's balanced budget I will present, we are doubling the amount of funding for First Class Pre-K program.</i></p> <p><i>By the year 2019, we will be able to tell every parent in Alabama, there is a Pre-K classroom available for your child.</i></p>
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Bill Walker	<p><i>Alaska's students are a source of optimism and confidence. State education leaders are developing a sustainable plan for Alaska's public education system based on input from Alaskans statewide.</i></p> <p><i>Their strategic plan to ensure quality instruction and improved academic achievement for all Alaska students is comprised of three priorities:</i></p>

			<i>empower local control of education; modernize the state's educational system; and ensure high-quality educators for Alaska's children.</i>
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Ducey	<p><i>On Friday, I will release my budget, and the big spenders and special interests aren't going to like it.</i></p> <p><i>It prioritizes vital commitments like education, child safety and public safety. It eliminates waste. It's balanced. And most importantly, it does not raise taxes.</i></p> <p><i>We know spending is not the measure of success. And it shouldn't just be about the billions of dollars we are putting into public education; it must be about what our kids are getting out of their education.</i></p> <p><i>Until the thousands of kids on public school wait lists have access to our finest teachers and principals, our job isn't done.</i></p> <p><i>So here's the plan: We are going to make it easier and more affordable for our best public schools to expand.</i></p> <p><i>For months, my office has worked with the top credit rating agencies in the country to develop a structure that lets our excellent public schools finance their expansion at lower cost.</i></p>
<b>Arkansas</b>	No 2016 Address	Asa Hutchinson	-
<a href="#">California</a>	January 21	Jerry Brown	<i>I am proud of how California has led the country in the way it is returning control to local school districts. For the last two decades, there has been a national movement to micromanage teachers from afar, through increasingly minute and prescriptive state and federal regulations.</i>

			<p><i>We have enacted or expanded many programs to counteract these powerful trends of inequality: We have added back hundreds of millions of dollars to our CalWORKs, foster care and child care programs;</i></p>
<a href="#">Colorado</a>	January 14 <sup>th</sup>	John Hickenlooper	<p><i>It's not going to be easy to meet the challenges we face in advancing our education system: our budget request calls for a \$20 million dollar cut to higher education, and no increase for financial aid.</i></p> <p><i>This is not the direction we want to be moving, but it's a direct result of conflicting budget mandates that are forcing painful choices like this one.</i></p> <p><i>Our economy can't reach its full potential until every Coloradan can be a productive part of it.</i></p> <p><i>When you're poor, it impacts every area of your life – from your health, to your education, to your housing and employment. And it doesn't just affect kids or parents; it affects entire families.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012, nearly one in five kids in Colorado was living in poverty. It's a number we've worked hard to reduce: today it's one in six, and we want to drive those numbers down even more. One of the approaches we're taking is called Two Generation, or Two-Gen, a comprehensive effort that moves families out of poverty and toward self-reliance.</i></p> <p><i>We ask that you re-authorize ReHire Colorado, a Two-Gen program that helps fathers who owe child support get jobs so they can contribute financially to their kids' well-being.</i></p>
<b>Connecticut</b>	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dannel Malloy	<p><b>The state's previous plans to provide universal access to preschool may</b></p>

			<p><b>also be stalled. In consolidating nearly two dozen line items in the budget for the Office of Early Childhood, the budget provides for an overall reduction of \$3.6 million. <a href="#">The preschool program is among those consolidated items.</a></b></p>
<a href="#">Delaware</a>	January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Jack Markell	<p><i>As much as any other state, Delaware has committed to our youngest learners. In 2011, only five percent of low-income kids attended the most highly rated programs. Today, we've increased that number to 59 percent.</i></p> <p><i>Given the scientific evidence about the critical brain development that occurs in their first few years, that means thousands of Delaware children will have better opportunities to succeed at every stage of life.</i></p> <p><i>But we shouldn't be satisfied until every child has access to one of these programs. I ask the General Assembly to support my budget request to give more low-income children access to high-quality early learning programs, well-educated teachers, and a healthy start.</i></p>
<a href="#">Florida</a>	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rick Scott	<p><i>We've made a record high investment in our education system so every child can have the opportunity to pursue their American dream.</i></p> <p><i>Let's work together to make sure Florida continues to have a world-class education system.</i></p>
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Nathan Deal	<p><i>Based on the success of our criminal justice reforms, we sought to improve and transform education in Georgia. I appointed the Education Reform Commission last January and tasked them with examining our entire education system and reporting back to me and the General Assembly with bold recommendations as to how we</i></p>

			<p>could better prepare our students for the 21st century.</p> <p>That report has now been submitted, and I want to thank Dr. Charles Knapp who served as Chairman of the Commission as well as the other 33 members of the Commission and their support staff. Please join me in thanking them for their service.</p> <p>Because of the magnitude of the recommendations contained in the report, some statutory changes will be necessary to implement them fully. Other recommendations can be achieved through the budgetary process. As an example, my proposed budget provides funds to implement a new compensation model for our Pre-K programs in order to retain lead teachers, increase assistant teacher salaries and maintain classroom quality. The Pre-K budget recommendation is in excess of \$358 million, which includes \$26.2 million for salary increases and an additional \$7.9 million for a 3 percent merit pay increase.</p>
<a href="#">Hawaii</a>	January 25 <sup>th</sup>	David Ige	<p>If we are truthful and act accordingly, if we value the public trust, if we govern with the people, if we are strong yet compassionate, if we take special care of our children, if we look to all of our futures, then we can more than meet the challenges we face today and tomorrow.</p>
<a href="#">Idaho</a>	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Butch Otter	<p>My legislative agenda for 2016 and my budget recommendations for fiscal 2017 reflect the priority that I place on living within the people's means while making responsible, sustainable and data-driven investments in our K-through-Career education system.</p>

			<p><i>My focus is on supporting student achievement by continuing to responsibly implement the 20 recommendations of our School Improvement Task Force. 2 Along with insisting on transparency and robust local accountability, the foundation we're building will advance our goal of ensuring that 60 percent of Idaho citizens between the ages of 25 and 34 have a college degree or professional-technical certification by 2020. Let me impress upon you once again the urgent need to address the cornerstone of successful lifelong learning – reading proficiency.</i></p> <p><i>Last year in this chamber I called on Idaho's business community to help us address the clear need for improving the attainment of that basic skill among our youngest students. Pro-active parents start that process at home before kindergarten, and students refine their reading skills in those early school years.</i></p> <p><i>Through the third grade, they learn to read. But from the fourth grade on, they read to learn. So if we're serious about wanting long-term improvement in school outcomes, we must intensify our efforts to provide the kind of proven support that works for students who struggle to develop reading skills.</i></p>
<p><a href="#">Illinois</a></p>	<p>January 27<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Bruce Rauner</p>	<p><i>This legislative session we will begin to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>-Provide proper funding for early childhood education while setting rigorous benchmarks for program performance, so we can continue to be national leaders in this important work.</i></li> <li><i>-Create a Cabinet on Children and Youth so we can better align our health and human services with our cradle to career education initiatives,</i></li> </ul>

			<i>in order to provide higher quality, fully integrated services for our young people.</i>
<a href="#">Indiana</a>	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Pence	<i>We increased bonuses for hardworking teachers, launched the first-ever statewide pre-K program - opening doors of opportunity for disadvantaged kids, and we now have one of the largest school voucher programs in the nation. We also invested millions to make our schools safer.</i>
<a href="#">Iowa</a>	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Branstad	<i>The budget released today includes more than \$145 million in new funding for pre-K through 12th grade students and teachers. My innovative idea is aimed at addressing two issues with long-term funding needs: education infrastructure and water quality.</i>
<a href="#">Kansas</a>	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Brownback	<p><i>Teachers need money to care for their needs. That's why Kansans invest in education: so good teachers are able to do their calling and teach.</i></p> <p><i>Yet today, of the more than \$4 billion the state puts into education funding, not nearly enough goes toward instruction.</i></p> <p><i>That's highly inefficient, if not immoral, denying Kansans from putting their education dollars where they want it...behind a good teacher.</i></p> <p><i>I call on the legislature to design a new education funding system that puts more of our money into instruction. That provides bonuses for exceptional teachers and recognizes their true value to our future and the souls of our students.</i></p>
<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Matt Bevin	<i>The Republican governor pledged to protect per-pupil K-12 school funding, Medicaid, social workers,</i>

			prosecutors, state police and prison correctional officers
<b>Louisiana</b>	February 12 <sup>th</sup>	John Bel Edwards	
<b>Maine</b>	No 2016 Address	Paul LePage	
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	February 3rd	Larry Hogan	<p><i>On education, we increased spending to historic, record-high levels, adding a total increased investment of \$830 million more in K-12 education.</i></p> <p><i>Most importantly, per-pupil spending is increased in every single jurisdiction across the state.</i></p> <p><i>These investments are important – but as we look to the year ahead, it’s clear that more money alone will not close the performance gap we see impacting Maryland’s children.</i></p>
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Charlie Baker	<p><i>In Massachusetts, we’re home to some of the highest performing public schools in the country, many of which are public charter schools serving low-income families in communities of color</i></p>
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Rick Snyder	<p><i>Every Michigan child deserves an education that launches them into a successful career path and life. The best careers in the modern economy require training with accessed programs that gives them the skills and experience necessary to prepare them for college, career and for life. We’ve made progress. We’ve made some good reforms. We’ve added tougher academics standards without federal mandates. We’ve talked about teacher effectiveness. We’re a national leader in funding preschool. We’ve created the early literacy programs, in terms of Pre-3 reading.</i></p> <p><i>I made an official request of the Legislature to fund a series of immediate actions to provide everyone in Flint clean water, and</i></p>

			<p>care for Flint’s children. In addition to the \$9 million supplemental appropriation for Flint made in October 2015, the request today is for \$28 million, with \$22 million from the general fund.</p> <p>This includes: Testing and replacing fixtures in schools, day care facilities, and other higher risk locations.</p>
<b>Minnesota</b>		Mark Dayton	
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Bryant	<p><i>Finding good, affordable childcare is a challenge for every working family in America – and especially those with low incomes. That’s why my budget makes child care more affordable for 20,000 low-income working families, reducing their out-of-pocket costs.</i></p> <p><i>My budget ensures that education remains a top priority with an increase of \$150 million – record funding – for our local public schools.</i></p> <p><i>That includes funding for the foundation formula, special education, transportation, and struggling school districts.</i></p> <p><i>And for the first time, we’ll be funding early childhood education through the foundation formula, giving more than 2,500 kids access to high quality pre-school this year.</i></p> <p><i>Under my budget, troubled schools will get the early-intervention and support they need to turn things around. And more students in low-income communities will have the opportunity to learn 21st Century skills like computer science.</i></p>
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Jay Nixon	<p><i>Another way we can continue to strengthen our economy is by strengthening Missouri families. Finding good, affordable childcare is a challenge for every working family in America – and especially those with</i></p>

			<p><i>low incomes. That’s why my budget makes child care more affordable for 20,000 low-income working families, reducing their out-of-pocket costs.</i></p> <p><i>My budget ensures that education remains a top priority with an increase of \$150 million – record funding – for our local public schools.</i></p> <p><i>That includes funding for the foundation formula, special education, transportation, and struggling school districts.</i></p> <p><i>And for the first time, we’ll be funding early childhood education through the foundation formula, giving more than 2,500 kids access to high quality pre-school this year.</i></p>
<b>Montana</b>	No 2016 Address	Steve Bullock	
<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pete Ricketts	<p><i>Medicaid has already grown from 2.9 percent of Nebraska’s budget when it started to where it is today: 19 percent of our budget and growing. This government entitlement crowds out investments in tax relief, education, and roads— things we need to grow our state.</i></p> <p><i>When the federal budget gets tight, or priorities change in Washington, that commitment will disappear. History shows, the federal government changes the rules at any time. For example, the federal government promised to pay 40 percent of the cost of the expansion of special education for our schools. Today, the federal contribution is less than 20 percent.</i></p>
<b>Nevada</b>	No 2016 Address	Brian Sandoval	
<b>New Hampshire</b>	February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Maggie Hassan	
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Christie	<i>Instead of going for the quick fixes or the easy solutions, we’ve gone for hard solutions and a long term</i>

			<p><i>revolution in the way we run our state. This is what it means to be a Governor; to be a real leader. It's the difference between talking a big game and attacking problems head-on and being responsible for achieving solutions. No matter how unpopular – the test is simple – is it right for New Jersey. In the way we teach our children. In the way we care for the most vulnerable members of our society. In the way we keep our streets safe, build better neighborhoods and grow stronger businesses.</i></p>
<p><a href="#">New Mexico</a></p>	<p>January 19<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Susana Martinez</p>	<p><i>No child is un-teachable. I will never give up on any kid. Every child can learn. Our reform agenda is clear.</i></p> <p><i>First, every child needs to read at an early age, so they can learn every year thereafter. Under my plan, to give our kids the best start possible, we'll expand pre-K – which has tripled so far on my watch – and build \$5 million worth of new pre-K classrooms throughout the State. And we'll add \$10 million in new reading interventions, specifically for students in chronically struggling schools.</i></p> <p><i>Second, we need a quality teacher in every classroom. Teachers matter. When they succeed, we should honor them. And when they struggle, we should help them. To build a stronger recruitment pipeline, I ask the Legislature to raise the minimum starting teacher salary to \$36,000 per year, which would total a 20 percent increase over the last four years. Expand the loan repayment program for teachers. And, let's offer dozens of scholarships each year to our brightest college students – \$15,000 apiece – if they enter a college of education in their junior year and commit to teaching in New Mexico. To</i></p>

			<p><i>better support our teachers, we should provide our most effective with additional pay, provide debit cards to help teachers cover the cost of classroom school supplies, and expand our new teacher mentoring program to give teachers who struggle help from their peers.</i></p> <p><i>We must increase parental involvement, by making it easier for parents to be engaged in their child's education. In state government, we are now granting leave so employees can attend parent-teacher conferences, and I hope local governments and the private sector follow suit.</i></p> <p><i>What matters is whether our kids are learning. We have to measure success, and if they're struggling, we need to get them help early. What could possibly be more important? If they can learn in school, opportunities will follow in life.</i></p> <p><i>Reading skills are formed early on. As a result, if children are passed along in early grades when they cannot read, the likelihood of them being able to learn in later grades plummets. And people wonder why a large number of students in New Mexico don't graduate? If we accept failure early – if we implicitly tell a child they can't learn – why would we expect otherwise? And why would we allow ourselves to be shocked if these discouraged, frustrated students chose to drop out, or turn to crime? It's not an excuse by any means, but they weren't required to have the most important tool in life – the ability to read.</i></p>
<p><a href="#">New York</a></p>	<p>January 13<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Andrew Cuomo</p>	<p><i>We all agree that public safety is paramount. But we can also all agree that it is madness to spend over</i></p>

			<p><i>\$50,000 a year for a prison cell while ignoring the wisdom of early intervention.</i></p> <p><i>And it starts from the very beginning. It starts from the classroom and let's finally recognize the past flaw in our approach to education in poor districts. Schools in poor communities not only face an educational challenge, they face many, many other burdens that other schools and other communities don't face. They face the issue of poverty. They face the issue of one-parent households. They face the issue of after-school problems, nutrition issues, crime issues, violence issues. Let's invest in the right help early on so we are not paying for problems later on.</i></p> <p><i>Let's make a big change. Let's make a big difference for thousands of children. Let's help thousands of children. Let's do it this year. Let's dedicate \$100 million to transform every failing school in New York into a comprehensive, holistic, full-service community school and change the basic education system in this state and stop the cycle of incarceration in this state and paying for problems, rather than stopping the problems at an early age.</i></p> <p><i>We are also working to attract and keep the best public school teachers, many of whom work very hard under very difficult circumstances. Many teachers even go into their own pocket to pay for food and supplies for the students in their classroom. What a beautiful sign of dedication. But they shouldn't have to bear that cost. They deserve our encouragement, support and gratitude. I propose a \$200 tax credit</i></p>
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			<i>to reimburse teachers for their expenses. They more than deserve it.</i>
<b>North Carolina</b>	No 2016 Address	Pat McCrory	
<b>North Dakota</b>	No 2016 Address	Jack Dalrymple	
<b>Ohio</b>		John Kasich	
<a href="#"><u>Oklahoma</u></a>	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mary Fallin	<i>It's time to merge the administrative costs of the state's underperforming K-8 dependent school districts by putting them into existing Pre-K-12 school districts. To be clear, this does not mean closing rural schools. This would get more money to classrooms and can enhance educational outcomes in a more effective way. We must ensure that our students are provided the highest quality instruction through advanced curriculum and facilities. To help weather this energy sector downturn's effect on school funding, let's give school districts the flexibility to use their building funds for teacher pay and benefits if local officials determine it is prudent and meets their most pressing needs. This would free up \$200 million at the local level that is currently restricted for other uses. This isn't a panacea and it won't be used by every district, but giving this flexibility will help schools. It will modernize the use of the ad valorem tax base and give districts more flexibility to meet their real needs. This would make a huge difference to our schools.</i>
<b>Oregon</b>		Kate Brown	
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Wolf	
<a href="#"><u>Rhode Island</u></a>	February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gina Raimondo	<i>Thanks to Senate President Paiva Weed's leadership, last year we expanded the number of pre-k classrooms and made all-day kindergarten universal across Rhode Island. But there's much more to do.</i>

			<p><i>Only about a third of our students are meeting expectations in English, and even fewer in math.</i></p> <p><i>And, sadly, Rhode Island has one of the largest “achievement gaps” between whites and non-whites in the entire nation.</i></p> <p><i>All of our kids deserve better, and I know – acting together – that we can improve our schools so children can get the skills they need to succeed in today’s economy.</i></p>
<b>South Carolina</b>	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Nikki Haley	
<a href="#"><u>South Dakota</u></a>	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Daugaard	<p><i>South Dakota must act to increase teacher pay and overall education funding. The low teacher pay has led to a critical teacher shortage and the incoming pipeline of teachers won’t meet the needs over the coming years. The problem can’t be fixed unless teacher salaries are increased.</i></p> <p><i>I propose a one-half cent sales tax increase to boost education funding. High student achievement requires high quality teachers, and the only way to attract top tier teachers is to offer competitive wages.</i></p> <p><i>We all want what’s best for our children. We want to provide them with a quality education and we know that requires a strong workforce of great teachers. This is the year. This is the year to get out of last place. This is the year to act. Let’s join together this year to strengthen our schools and keep our promise to the next generation.</i></p>
<a href="#"><u>Tennessee</u></a>	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bill Haslam	<p><i>What’s important in all of this is that we’re not investing in the same old public education system in Tennessee. We’ve raised our standards. We’ve linked teacher evaluations to student</i></p>

			<p><i>performance. And we've expanded education options for children. We are showing historic progress, and we can't back up. We are a system that is committed to the basic premise that all children should have access to a quality public education regardless of zip code, and we are shrinking the achievement gap for historically underserved and low-income students.</i></p>
<b>Texas</b>	No 2016 Address	Greg Abbott	
<a href="#">Utah</a>	January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Herbert	<p><i>With finite resources and hundreds of competing demands in last year's session, you made the tough decisions that put Utah's children first. Together we have invested over \$1.3 billion of new money in education over the past four years, which is more money, by the way, committed to education than any other time in Utah's history.</i></p> <p><i>I believe, it is education, not entitlement, that creates the opportunity for self-reliance. If you remember nothing else from my message this evening, remember this. Education is the most important investment we can make in Utah's future.</i></p> <p><i>One of the defining moments in my time as governor came last year when we made one of the largest increases in education funding ever in Utah's history, \$512 million in all. As I go around the state, I am often thanked by teachers, principals, parents and others for this extraordinary investment in Utah's future.</i></p>
<a href="#">Vermont</a>	January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Shumlin	<p><i>By expanding the number of kids earning college credit for free while still in high school and becoming the only state to guarantee every three and four-year-old access to high quality pre-k, we have taken</i></p>

			<p><i>Vermont’s good education system and made it better.</i></p> <p><i>Kate Lamb is a single mother working in Johnson raising her 4-year-old daughter. Like most working parents, finding quality, affordable child care has been a critical issue. Thanks to our expansion of Pre-K programs across the state, Kate’s daycare in Lamoille – Mud City – was able to offer Kate and her daughter exactly what they needed. Thank you Kate for joining us today.</i></p> <p><i>While some cynics call endlessly for Vermont to join the race to the bottom taking place in some states, I believe we should continue our commitments to clean jobs, clean water, clean energy, and a quality educational system.</i></p>
<a href="#">Virginia</a>	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Terry McAuliffe	<p><i>Let’s work together to transform our education and workforce development systems to meet the demands of our future. In addition to significant capital investments in research and development, the two-year budget before you provides more than \$1 billion dollars in new funds across all levels of education.</i></p> <p><i>We will take Virginia’s investment in public education to \$6.78 billion dollars in fiscal year 18, the highest level in the Commonwealth’s history.</i></p> <p><i>Now, this does not mean that we should invest taxpayer dollars in education just for the sake of it. We should invest in smart, innovative programs that get results for the students, communities and the businesses that we serve.</i></p> <p><i>We’ve already made a great start.</i></p>

			<p><i>Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam and his team worked closely with us to win a \$17.5 million dollar annual grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide high-quality pre-kindergarten classes for 13,000 children.</i></p> <p><i>And as we take a new approach to public education, we cannot ignore the fundamental problem that too many students, one in six in fact, lack the basic nutrition they need to fulfill their potential.</i></p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Washington</u></a></p>	<p>January 12<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Jay Inslee</p>	<p><i>Speaking of investments, let's talk about the most important investment we know we can make, and that's in our children. Last year we put an additional \$2.3 billion in early learning, K-12 and higher education funding in the budget on a bipartisan basis. Since 2013, education funding increased by 35 percent.</i></p> <p><i>It is altogether fitting and proper we take a moment to recognize this incredible investment. We should be proud that we made the largest dollar-amount investment in education in Washington state history.</i></p> <p><i>At the same time, no one should believe we're done. We have more work to do, and I'll talk about that in a moment. But we have taken major steps that will have major impacts for our kids.</i></p> <p><i>We've given nearly 7,000 more children access to high-quality early learning over the past three years. We've provided funding for every child to have all-day kindergarten. This and early learning were some of my highest priorities because they are critical educational opportunities that come along only once for each child.</i></p>

			<p><i>Of all the things we do, I believe this will have the most impact in our communities, and do the most to close the opportunity gap.</i></p> <p><i>Every single child deserves a great education in our public schools.</i></p> <p><i>I'm confident we'll take the second step next year because legislators have met every deadline they've set for themselves. Our next deadline requires the legislature to fully fund basic education in the 2017 legislative session, and there's no reason we can't do that too. We're not going to just fix a few potholes, we're going to finish the job. That means actually financing these critical investments so our kids and grandkids get the education they deserve.</i></p> <p><i>And because we know a high-quality teacher is the single most important asset in every classroom, we provided funding for more teacher mentoring opportunities, especially for new teachers.</i></p>
<a href="#"><u>West Virginia</u></a>	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Earl Ray Tomblin	<p><i>In 2010, we started down a path to improve our state's public education system. Instead of allowing paperwork to drive education, we refocused our efforts to provide our children with the skills they need to compete in today's global economy. Since then, we've expanded early childhood education to help our youngest students build a foundation for a lifetime of learning.</i></p>
<a href="#"><u>Wisconsin</u></a>	January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Scott Walker	<p><i>Tonight, I commit to investing every penny of savings to the general fund from these specific reforms to support public education. People tell me that they appreciate our efforts to get the state's fiscal house in order and that now is the time to use savings to help our students prepare for the future</i></p>
<b>Wyoming</b>	February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Matt Mead	

