



Update: 48 States on Track to Report High School Graduation Rates Using Common Formula by 2011

An update from the NGA Center



shows that more than half of all states are now publicly reporting their high school graduation rates based on a common formula. The report, [Implementing Graduation Counts: State Progress to Date, 2010](#), also indicates that 48 states are on track to report using this formula for the cohort graduating in 2011.

In 2005, governors of the 50 states signed the NGA Graduation Counts Compact to voluntarily implement a common formula for calculating their state's high school graduation rate, which focuses on: using a common, four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate formula; building state data collection and reporting capacity; developing additional student outcome indicators; and reporting annually on progress toward these commitments.

For more information about NGA Center Education Division efforts, visit www.nga.org/center/edu.

States Call on Federal Government to Work Together to Reduce Deficits



The National Governors Association (NGA) sent a [letter to Congress](#) calling on the federal government to work cooperatively with states to reduce deficits, restore fiscal discipline and promote economic growth and long-term prosperity.

This month, 29 new governors – the largest class in history – took office facing collective budget deficits of \$175 billion through 2013. This amount is on top of the \$230 billion in budget gaps states filled between fiscal years 2009 and 2011. Because states have to balance their budgets, the \$175 billion shortfall will have to be filled through spending cuts or increased fees and taxes.

Governors call on the Administration and Congress to adhere to the following principles for state-federal deficit reduction:

- o **Federal reforms should be designed to produce savings for both the federal government and states;**
- o **Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by merely shifting costs to states or imposing unfunded mandates;**
- o **States should be given increased flexibility to create efficiencies and achieve results; and**
- o **Congress should not impose maintenance of effort (MOE) provisions on states as a condition of funding.**

For more information, visit www.nga.org.

Recent Webcast:
[The State Role in Combating Identity Theft](#)

Also see: [Video](#) | [Photos](#) | [Webcasts](#)

NGA in the News:

- o [House GOP leader says no federal bailout of states](#)
- o [State bankruptcy bill imminent, Gingrich says](#)

Dear Friend:

As 2011 begins, NGA has hit the ground running. With the inauguration of 29 new governors, the focus remains on the fiscal conditions of states.

Governors have an obligation to be good fiscal stewards of taxpayer dollars. The recession forced many states to take difficult short-term actions to balance budgets and to find innovative ways to make government a more efficient and sustainable over the long-term. Therefore, governors have called on the federal government to work cooperatively with states to reduce deficits, restore fiscal discipline and promote economic growth and long-term prosperity.

NGA also released a statement opposing federal proposals to provide states with bankruptcy protection. Allowing states to declare bankruptcy is not an authority state leaders have asked for, nor is it one they would use. The mere existence of a law allowing states to declare bankruptcy only serves to increase interest rates, raise the costs of state government and create more volatility in financial markets.

As the year begins, NGA will continue to be the bipartisan voice of the nation's governors and provide a forum for governors to discuss our nation's most pressing issues.

To learn more about NGA, visit www.nga.org.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

Federal Focus:

[NGA Statement Regarding Bankruptcy Proposals for States](#)



News Releases:

- o [NGA Statement Regarding Bankruptcy Proposals for States](#)
- o [States Call on Federal Government to Work Together to Reduce Deficits](#)
- o [Update: 48 States on Track to Report High School Graduation Rates Using Common Formula by 2011](#)
- o [States Can Achieve Better Outcomes, Lower Costs by Supporting Youth in Transition Out of Foster Care](#)
- o [National Groups Co-Host Briefing on 2009 PISA Results: World-Class Education for Global Competitiveness](#)

- [The heat is on high energy users](#)
- [Congress Set To Pass Problems On To States](#)
- [Schools prepare for national standards](#)
- [Congress Unlikely to Extend Hand to Ailing States](#)
- [States Grapple With Health Care](#)

State Innovations:

- [Mississippi Site Maps Broadband Availability](#)
- [Kansas to Streamline Health Departments](#)
- [Minnesota Expands Medicaid Access](#)
- [Alabama Posts College and University Spending Online](#)

Get to know the Governor:

[Michigan Governor Rick Snyder](#)



Rick Snyder was sworn in as governor of Michigan on January 1, 2011.

He has had significant business experience, running day-to-day operations for Gateway computers and creating HealthMedia, Inc., which provides internet-based wellness and disease management tools.

Snyder has also been actively involved in economic development on a statewide and local level in Michigan. He was appointed by Governor John Engler to serve as the first chair of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in 1999 and has received Governor's Cup award from Site Selection magazine four times. [Read More...](#)

Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 50 states, three territories and two commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit www.nga.org.

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