

## What is the World's Best Workforce?

The "Striving for the World's Best Workforce" bill was passed in 2013 to ensure every school district in the state is making strides to increase student performance. Each district must develop a plan that addresses the following five goals:

1. All children are ready to start kindergarten.
2. All third-graders can read at grade level.
3. All achievement gaps between students are closed.
4. All students are ready for career and/or postsecondary education.
5. All students graduate from high school.

### Why is Minnesota focused on this idea?

For Minnesota to be competitive, we must have students who are career and college ready, poised to lead the state's workforce. This is important for a number of reasons:

- Our population is aging.
- Seventy percent (70%) of jobs will require more than a high school diploma by 2018.
- We don't have an adequate number of qualified candidate to fill many good-paying jobs.
- The fastest growing segment of our future workforce is students of color, and they currently have the state's lowest graduation rate.
- Minnesota has one of the worst black-white achievement gaps in the country.



### How will we measure progress?

Each district will create their own plan to align a standards-based curriculum with classroom instruction, so that students are career and college ready at graduation. The success of each plan will be measured by:



- NAEP scores
- Closing gaps by student group
- MCA proficiency
- College entrance exams

## What do Minnesota school boards need to do?

School boards in each district across the state must establish an advisory committee that will:

- Involve the community during plan development.
- Include members that reflect the diversity of the district and its schools.
- Make recommendations to the school board on rigorous academic standards and student achievement goals and measures.



**District leaders will** post an annual report on their progress, hold annual public meetings, and are required to submit an annual summary report to the Minnesota Department of Education.

## What role does the Minnesota Department of Education play?

While each district's World's Best Workforce plan will be developed and implemented locally, the Minnesota Department of Education will offer support to districts when needed. This could mean helping to identify areas where a district is struggling, or sharing best practices that might help a district raise student performance.

## What resources are available for district use?

- A planning document is available to help districts develop their plans.
- A presentation is available that gives background on the legislation. It can be used by districts to inform teachers and staff, parents, and the community.
- This one-page summary was prepared for districts to use with staff, parents, and the community.



Additional resources will be added to the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) web page, as they are developed. Select the "Subscribe here" link on the WBWF web page to sign up for email alerts each time new content is posted to the page. [Visit the World's Best Workforce page.](#)

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