



Coastlines

CSG/ERC'S Monthly Newsletter

May 2010

ERC Members Share Ideas at Common Core Conference

Maryland and Maine among ERC member states to attend conference



Legislators from the Northeast attend CSG's Common Core Standards Initiative in Washington. Pictured, left to right, are: Maine Representatives **Helen Rankin**, **Patricia Sutherland** and **Richard Wagner**, and Delegate

News Links

[State Faces \\$700M Budget Gap](#)

Reliance by the Gov. Deval Patrick administration and the Democrats who control the House and Senate on nearly \$700 million in additional health care funding has become a riskier proposition.

[NJ Dems Plan to Override Gov. Christie's "millionaires tax" veto](#)

Democratic lawmakers will push forward with their attempt to increase taxes on millionaires, and are planning a vote to override Gov. Chris Christie's veto despite a slim chance of success, the party's top official said last week.

[Maryland Elections Board to Consider Social](#)

Craig Rice of Maryland.

About 90 percent of the country's high-paying jobs require advanced degrees, but more high school students need to be encouraged to pursue those degrees.

That was the message from the [Council of State Governments](#) educational policy summit, a summit designed to educate legislators and their aides about the Common Core Standards Initiative.

CSG's summit, held in late April in Washington, D.C., brought together legislators from throughout the Northeast region, including Maine, New York, Maryland and Massachusetts.

Common Core is a national standards initiative to increase student achievement in core curriculum. But nationwide, many students lack fundamental core curriculum skills - leaving the vulnerable and unprepared for college.

Worse, students with poor core curriculum skills are more likely to drop out of school, face disciplinary issues while in school and even develop problems within the criminal justice system, educational advocates said.

"It doesn't make sense. Just because you get the diploma, doesn't mean you're ready to do college-level work," said Dane Linn, the director of the education division for the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices.

Linn described how states can work together to develop uniform standards in core curriculum. "There's a real lack of clarity on the standards," she said. "We are attempting to help teachers dive much deeper in the substance. You see that reflected in the standards as well."

Others agreed. More states need to adopt [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#), said Bob Wise, president of the [Alliance for Excellent Education](#). The NAEP conducts assessments in what students know and can do in subject areas such as mathematics, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, economics, geography, and U.S. history.

Wise said that the U.S. spends about \$3.7 billion on remedial education - a cost that could be reduced through common assessment programs.

It is a "more imperative" to promote common core standards, Wise said. "Common assessments are the start."

Other advocates stressed the need for better training for teachers and for more states to work together to share information on common core assessment

[Networking Regs](#)

The state elections board is poised to begin regulating candidates' [Facebook](#) pages and [Twitter](#) accounts, a move that officials say is intended to enhance transparency - and help voters distinguish the real campaign messages from the fake ones.

[GOP Delegates Back Lazio](#)

Former Representative [Rick A. Lazio](#) emerged as the [Republican Party's](#) preferred candidate for governor during New York's GOP convention in Manhattan on Wednesday.

["Kids for Cash" Scandal Detailed](#)

In a harsh and devastating report, a commission set up to investigate the "kids for cash" scandal in Luzerne County issued far-reaching recommendations last month aimed at overhauling the state's juvenile justice system.

[Rell Signs Landmark Education Reform Bill](#)

Gov. M. Jodi Rell Wednesday signed into

programs.

Regional legislators and aides said the summit could help states improve education for high school students.

"It gives communities nationwide the same rigorous level of expectations and ultimately instructional quality," said Diane Ward, director of the education committee of New York State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer's office.

Still, implementing the regional assessments could prove difficult. States would still have to pay for teacher training and getting all states up to the same level of assessment could be a challenge, aides and legislators said.

New York's \$3.2 billion budget deficit could make it difficult for the state to afford a core curriculum program for example, Ward said. "I have great difficulty in seeing how we're going to find that," she said. "It's going to be extremely challenging to meet that, in this fiscal climate."

Delegate Craig Rice of Maryland agreed. Rice pointed out that the cost to retrain teachers could be high for some states. Maryland has a projected \$2 billion budget gap next year, according to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#).

Rep. Pat Sutherland of Maine said that core assessment programs could be used by states as economic development tool, allowing states to retain more highly-trained workers and grow jobs.

But, she added "to me, it's a great challenge to convince people to invest time and money into supporting and promoting this common core."

a law a sweeping education-reform bill that aims to improve the state's public schools and boost Connecticut's chances of securing federal "Race to the Top" dollars.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

New York Sees Boost in Income Tax Collections in 1Q of 2010

U.S. report tracks state-by-state snapshot

New York saw a 15.8 percent increase in its tax collections during the first quarter of 2010, but less than half of the states in the Northeast reported only slight improvements in overall tax collection for the quarter, according to the Rockefeller Institute of Government

Overall, state tax revenues increased by 2.4 percent, compared to the first quarter of 2009, according to preliminary data in a new report from the institute.

The increase in total collections was mostly attributable to revenue growth driven by legislated tax increases in just two states - New York and California. Without those two states, total state collections would show a 2.2 percent decline

New York's tax revenues increased by \$2.3 billion during the first quarter. Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey also reported tax revenue increases (see chart below).

State	Personal Income Tax	Corporate Income Tax	Sales	Total
Connecticut	(2.2)	34.9	(6.0)	2.6
Maine	(7.2)	90.3	(2.9)	(0.4)
Massachusetts	(2.9)	4.3	25.7	2.9
New Hampshire	NA	(4.6)	NA	1.4
Rhode Island	12.5	22.1	(1.8)	7.6
Vermont	(15.8)	(11.6)	(2.7)	(5.6)
Delaware	(17.5)	(23.3)	NA	(2.0)
Maryland	(3.8)	(2.3)	(6.2)	(4.8)
New Jersey	3.2	105.8	(2.9)	3.4
New York	23.1	10.1	(0.1)	15.8
Pennsylvania	(2.5)	(0.5)	(1.2)	(1.0)

New York's revenues increased by \$2.3 billion, or 15.8 percent, during the quarter. The state saw a 23.1 percent jump in its personal income tax revenues, while Rhode Island - which saw the second highest increase in the region with an overall 7.6 percent tax revenue increase - received most of its gains through corporate income tax.

Still the second quarter could be rough for states. April collections from income taxes show a 7.6 percent year-over-year decline, according to the institute.

"The income tax shortfall for the April-June quarter will push states to take hasty actions for dealing with the shortfall," Lucy Dadayan, the institute's senior policy analyst said in a press release.

She added: "The April shortfalls in income tax collections come late in the fiscal year and late in the budget process, leaving little time for revenue analysts to evaluate the budget shortfalls, for budget forecasters to revise their forecasts, and for elected officials to assess the magnitude of the state fiscal crisis."

To see the full report, click [here](#).

Michael Paul
The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference
212-482-2320

[About Us](#) - [CSG/ERC Policy Areas](#) - [Annual Meeting Information](#) - [CSG/ERC Resolutions](#) - [Calendar](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to mjackson@csg.org by mjackson@csg.org.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference | 100 Wall St. | 20th Floor | New York | NY | 10005