

West Virginia State Board of Education Self-Assessment & Idea Exchanges

Background: The West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) decided to look at ways to carry out its mission more effectively. Board members wanted to learn how other state boards of education improve their work and how they think about today's education issues. After meeting with the ARCC, WVBE decided to conduct a self-assessment and in-person meetings with other boards in the region to learn more about their experience with specific issues and board improvement.

The Challenge: To help WVBE conduct a self-assessment and talk with state boards of education across the region about today's education issues.

What We Did: Staff at the ARCC worked with West Virginia to:

- Research board self-assessments and tailor an assessment for WVBE
- Help WVBE use self-assessment results to improve the board's work
- Plan and facilitate meetings (Idea Exchanges) for WVBE with other state boards of education to discuss policies, practices, and common issues
- Create a record of the meetings

What Happened:

- WVBE completed a self-assessment in 2015 and adopted several new practices
- WVBE held three Idea Exchanges for state board of education members from West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana on June 2-3, 2015, April 13-14, 2016, and May 22-23, 2017.
- Attendees shared ideas about education issues, including assessment and accountability, communication, achievement, and building bridges: working with and strengthening relations with governors, legislators, and state education agencies..
- Of WVBE members who took the feedback survey, 100% agreed that they learned about challenges, increased their knowledge of ways to meet challenges, and began building a network of peers.

Interviewed on [West Virginia Morning](#) on June 4, 2015, then-WVBE President Gayle Manchin observed: "At the end of the day, state boards are interested in raising student achievement in their state. So we are constantly looking at the policies that we have developed—are they working as they are being implemented through the department of education and then down to the local districts, are we accomplishing what we hoped to accomplish."