



## Every Student Succeeds with STEM Mobilization Challenge 1: Q&A

### **Question for Elliot Asp, Ph.D., Senior Fellow of Policy and Practice at Achieve**

Some folks are very familiar with getting their state chiefs on the phone, in meeting, etc., but some aren't. As a former chief, do you have tips and suggestions about how do you get the attention of a state chief?

#### **Answer:**

You have to make yourself easy to listen to, so you don't want to approach this from a critical perspective. You should assume that they know how critical STEM and should phrase your question like this: "You know that STEM is important. How is it being prioritized in the plan?" If you are unable to connect with the state chief, it might be easier to meet with the chief of staff or a deputy commissioner. Finally, when students talk, adults listen, so it's important that they are part of the conversation.

### **Question for Elliot Asp, Ph.D., Senior Fellow of Policy and Practice at Achieve**

Why would states *not* choose September deadline? In other words, why would they submit early?

#### **Answer:**

The states that are submitting early are most likely doing so to get their plan approved so they can get on with the process of implementation. Another reason for submitting early is because there is uncertainty with this new administration.

### **Question for Elliot Asp, Ph.D., Senior Fellow of Policy and Practice at Achieve**

Are there templates or examples of states submitting early that might be beneficial to point out to other states?

#### **Answer:**

I'd like to say that I've read them all, but I haven't. I would though look at Tennessee, New Jersey, and New Mexico. There's also usually a quick summary in the front that are helpful.

### **Question for Elliot Asp, Ph.D., Senior Fellow of Policy and Practice at Achieve**

How do you find plans that have been submitted?

#### **Answer:**

Head to their State Department of Education websites, if you can't find it there, contact their communications department.

**Question for Caroline King, Chief Policy and Strategy Officer for Washington Stem**

If I'm a principal, teacher, and parent, and I haven't been connected to you in the past but I'm interested in STEM education, could I call you or other STEM coalitions in the state to help me contact with the ESSA?

**Answer:**

Absolutely. It's important to help the folks at the state office hear from as many people and as many diverse voices as possible as possible. We'd help teachers and parents understand the timeline and the importance of the ESSA planning that's happening right now. We can provide concrete ways to communicate by providing example emails and phone calls you can make, and then offer suggestions about how you can personalize those conversations (i.e. how a student's engagement has gone up because of his or her involvement in STEM, rural areas that don't have access to STEM programs, etc.)

Finally, if there are broader businesses or community groups that we're partnering with, we can connect you with them if you'd like a deeper level in engagement.

**Question for Joe Walsh, Senior Vice President of Innovation at Collaborative Communications Group**

"Make STEM a priority," what does that mean?

**Answer:**

Two ways to think about it:

- 1) Focusing on the requirement part, there is a ton of flexibility, as STEM advocates can stress STEM is part of ESSA: well rounded equity education for all. Future all flows from priority
- 2) There is also going to be a state specific context. All of you have a certain piece that's appropriate
  - a. State –one two punch