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Vol. 17 No. 18: October 11, 2017

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# The Every Student Succeeds Act: Hearing Witnesses Discuss the Appropriate Federal Role

Did you catch the Senate education committee's hearing on the quality of the plans that states are developing under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on October 3?

We've got a post-game, behind-the-scenes video with two of the four witnesses, New Mexico Public Education Secretary **Christopher Ruszkowski** and Executive Director of Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy **David Steiner**.

[Watch the Video](#)

 [Click to Tweet](#): What's the appropriate federal role in #ESSA? Witnesses from Senate hearing discuss in this video from @all4ed [bit.ly/2y81cdU](https://bit.ly/2y81cdU)




## Documentary Film *For Ahkeem* Highlights the Challenges African American Youth Face in School and the Community

The film [For Ahkeem](#) is the coming-of-age story of Daje Shelton, a seventeen-year-old African American girl from north St. Louis, Missouri. Expelled from her public high school, Shelton is sent to the court-supervised Innovative Concept Academy (ICA), which offers her a last chance to earn a high school diploma.

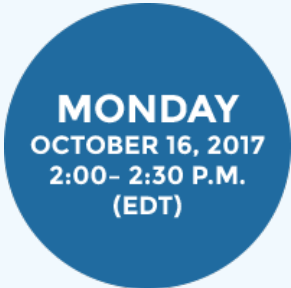
Learn more about the inspiration for the film in this Q & A with Landon Van Soest, the film's co-director, and Daje Shelton, the film's subject.

[Read More](#)

 [Click to Tweet](#): Documentary Film #ForAhkeem Highlights the Challenges African American Youth Face in School and the Community [bit.ly/2yawBtS](https://bit.ly/2yawBtS)

## Coming Soon

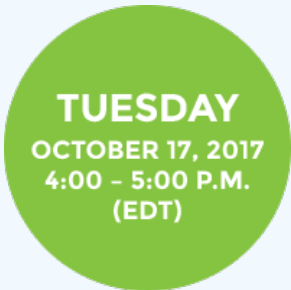
Learner with Agency Is a Learner Who Is Future Ready



In this Future Ready Schools® webinar, the panelists will discuss how to empower all learners with the [UDL \(Universal Design for Learning\) Lens: Access, Engage, and Express](#), which is a three-step process that results in learner agency. All learners should take ownership of their learning and they need a way to talk about who they are and what their strengths and challenges are in addition to the details about their interests, talents, and aspirations.

Register Now

## Future Ready Librarians: Building Instructional Partnerships



This Future Ready Librarians webinar will look at how teacher librarians can partner with educators to build and implement evidence-based curricula and assessments that integrate elements of deeper learning, critical thinking, information literacy, digital citizenship, creativity, innovation, and the active use of technology.

Register Now

## Students Without Status: Understanding and Protecting the Rights of Undocumented Immigrant Students



The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provides work permits and protection from deportation to eligible young unauthorized immigrants. Since its inception in 2012, approximately 800,000 young people have benefited from the program. With the Trump administration's announcement that the DACA program would be phased out, these young people's future and the future of the more than 700,000 undocumented students enrolled in K–12 schools across the country are now in jeopardy.

This webinar will focus on DACA, the rights of undocumented students, and best practices for creating a culturally inclusive school environment.

Register Now

## In Case You Missed It



## Federal Flash: Senate Examines Quality of State ESSA Plans, Plus Concerns About Testing Violations

Last week, the Senate education committee held a hearing examining the quality of state plans developed under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Additionally, a key ESSA architect expressed concerns that some states could be in possible violation of ESSA's testing requirements. This Federal Flash has those details, as well as news on federal literacy programs and new hires at the U.S. Department of Education.

Watch the Video

 [Click to Tweet](#): #FederalFlash covers last week's Senate hearing on #ESSA, concerns about testing requirements & more. Watch: [all4ed.org/FederalFlash](http://all4ed.org/FederalFlash)



## Using Title I to Promote Deeper Learning

This webinar addressed how states can use resources provided by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to implement deeper learning practices in schools and school districts, specifically how Title I can be used to emphasize deeper learning, as that pot of funding focuses on standards, assessment, and accountability.

Watch the Webinar

## Alliance in the News

### Hispanic High School Dropout Rate Hits All-Time Low

In *Education Week*, Alliance President Bob Wise attributes some of the improvement in high school dropout rates for Latino students to federal law requiring schools to report the high school graduation rates by student subgroup. He also notes that while this decline is worth celebrating, progress could be threatened by the current political climate around immigration and [DACA](#).

Read More

### How Schools are Preparing for the Future of Work

With jobs changing rapidly, predictions of the future of work are uncertain, leaving schools questioning how to prepare students for success. "For thousands of educators, this discussion isn't about 15 years from now. It's about the present," said Alliance President Bob Wise in *Education Week*. "But schools aren't sure how to change what they're doing, or even what questions to ask."

Learn More

### SAT Scores Show Students Aren't College-Ready

Results from the new SAT show that only 46 percent of students are receiving minimum scores on markers of success in entry-level college courses, reports *Education Week*. "Less than half of our kids meeting the college-readiness benchmark? That's just not good. And it's not sustainable," said the Alliance's Phillip Lovell.

Learn More



## Spotlight

### Porterville Unified School District School Recognized as 2017 National Blue Ribbon School




**Porterville Unified**  
@PortervilleUSD

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Harmony Magnet Academy has been named as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, 1 of 342 schools nationally



10:42 AM - 28 Sep 2017

2 Retweets17 Likes



2

17

Harmony Magnet Academy, part of Porterville Unified School District (PUSD) in California, was recognized as a [2017 National Blue Ribbon School](#) by the U.S. Department of Education. The school, which was one of 342 recognized nationally, has also been featured by the Alliance for Excellent Education for their success in utilizing the Linked Learning approach to prepare students for college and career. See PUSD's Linked Learning in action in this [video](#).

## Recommended Reading



How to Help High Schoolers Without Home Internet Access

*U.S. News*

[Read More](#)



If Your Teacher Looks Like You, You May Do Better In School

*nprEd*

[Read More](#)



Can Apprenticeships Pave the Way to a Better Economic Future?

*Education Week*

[Read More](#)

## New Faces at the Alliance

### Hans Hermann

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Hans Hermann joined the Alliance in August 2017 as a policy and advocacy intern. He is supporting the Alliance's work around the science of adolescent learning, particularly focusing on how research from this area can inform the work of policymakers and practitioners at the district and school levels. Mr. Hermann supports various other projects around implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act and college and career readiness.

From May 2014 to July 2015, Mr. Hermann worked as the national director for business development at AIESEC United States, the U.S. branch of AIESEC International, the world's largest youth-led nonprofit organization. In the summer of 2016, he volunteered as a teacher in a government school for teenage mothers in Lima, Peru. Prior to coming to the Alliance, Mr. Hermann was a policy and research intern at the Learning Policy Institute in its Palo Alto office.

Mr. Hermann is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in learning sciences and educational policy, focusing on the impact of these areas on contemporary learning environments. He is interested in the impact of educational neuroscience and psychology in the classroom, teacher preparation models, and project-based learning environments.

### Shayna Levitan

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Shayna Levitan joined the Alliance as a policy and advocacy intern in September 2017. She is a junior at American University majoring in law and society with a minor in education and a certificate in leadership and ethics.

Originally from outside of Boston, Ms. Levitan has spent her summers interning in the northeast. During summer of 2017, she was at Steps to Success Brookline, a local community-based organization that provides wraparound services for students in public housing. Previously, Ms. Levitan interned at Mass Insight Education, where she conducted and presented research on, as well as drafted state legislation for, the equitable and transparent acceptance of an Advanced Placement (AP) score of a 3, 4, or 5 across all Massachusetts public colleges and universities.

### Adanech Makey

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Adanech Makey joined the Alliance in September 2017 as a policy and advocacy intern. She is currently pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in interdisciplinary studies and psychology at Howard University.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Ms. Makey worked in the Highline School District in Washington state, where she served as a secondary tutor in various high schools throughout the district. Most recently, during the summer of 2017, Ms. Makey taught the Wing Luke Museum's curriculum "Honoring Our Journey" to middle school students. Through "Honoring Our Journey" and metacognitive lessons, she taught underserved students about the importance of shaping their identities and sharing their stories.

Ms. Makey is interested in learning how psychological approaches can be used to impact education policies and practices to benefit underserved students.

## Ask the Alliance!



Do you have a question about policy implementation in your state or district? How about a question on the best or promising practices for improving high schools? Ask the Alliance! The Alliance will share concise, research-backed answers, with resources, that you can use to inform your work. Visit [all4ed.org/ask-the-alliance/](http://all4ed.org/ask-the-alliance/) to learn more.

Ask the Alliance

Get Social

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"We need more students graduating with #deeperlearning competencies to be really ready for college & career"-@pdclovell at @DCSBOE #SBOELive



3:22 PM - 26 Sep 2017

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1



5



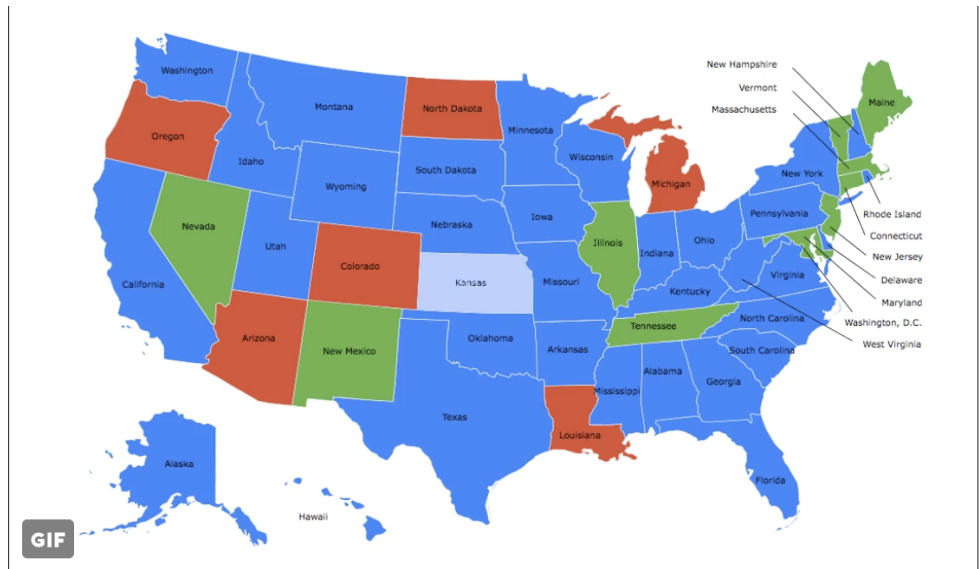
The 74  
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EXCLUSIVE MAP: Where are states in developing their #ESSA plans? What's next?

Learn here: [essa.the74million.org](http://essa.the74million.org) #edchat #edpolicy



7:12 PM - 29 Sep 2017

2 Retweets



2





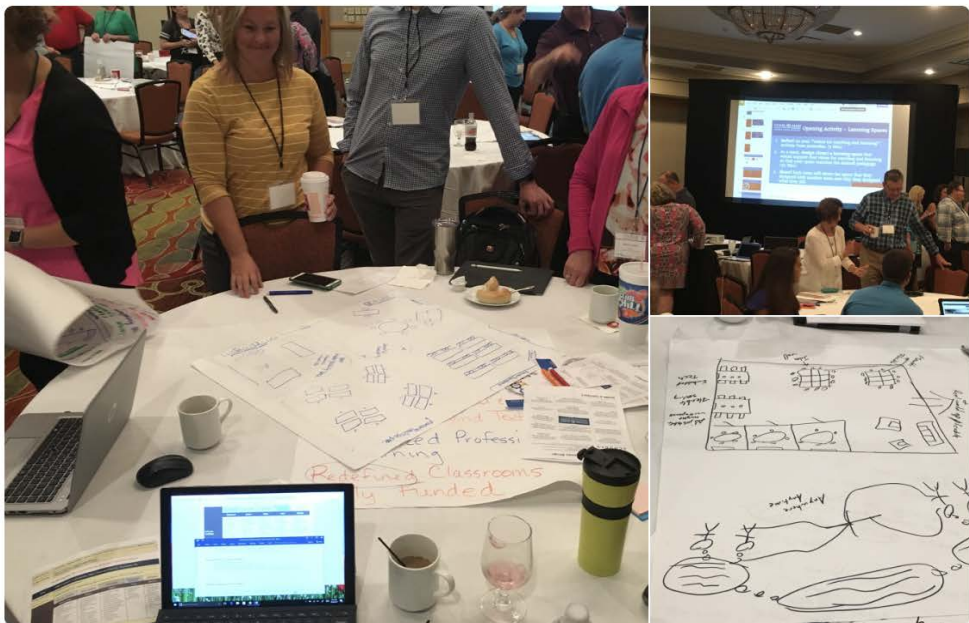


**Future Ready**  
@FutureReady

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#FutureReady Principals, Librarians, District Leaders and Instructional Coaches work TOGETHER to think about the design of learning spaces



5:57 AM - 26 Sep 2017

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1 20 54



**Cathy Collins** @TechGypsy11 · Sep 27



Replying to @FutureReady  
Amen!

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