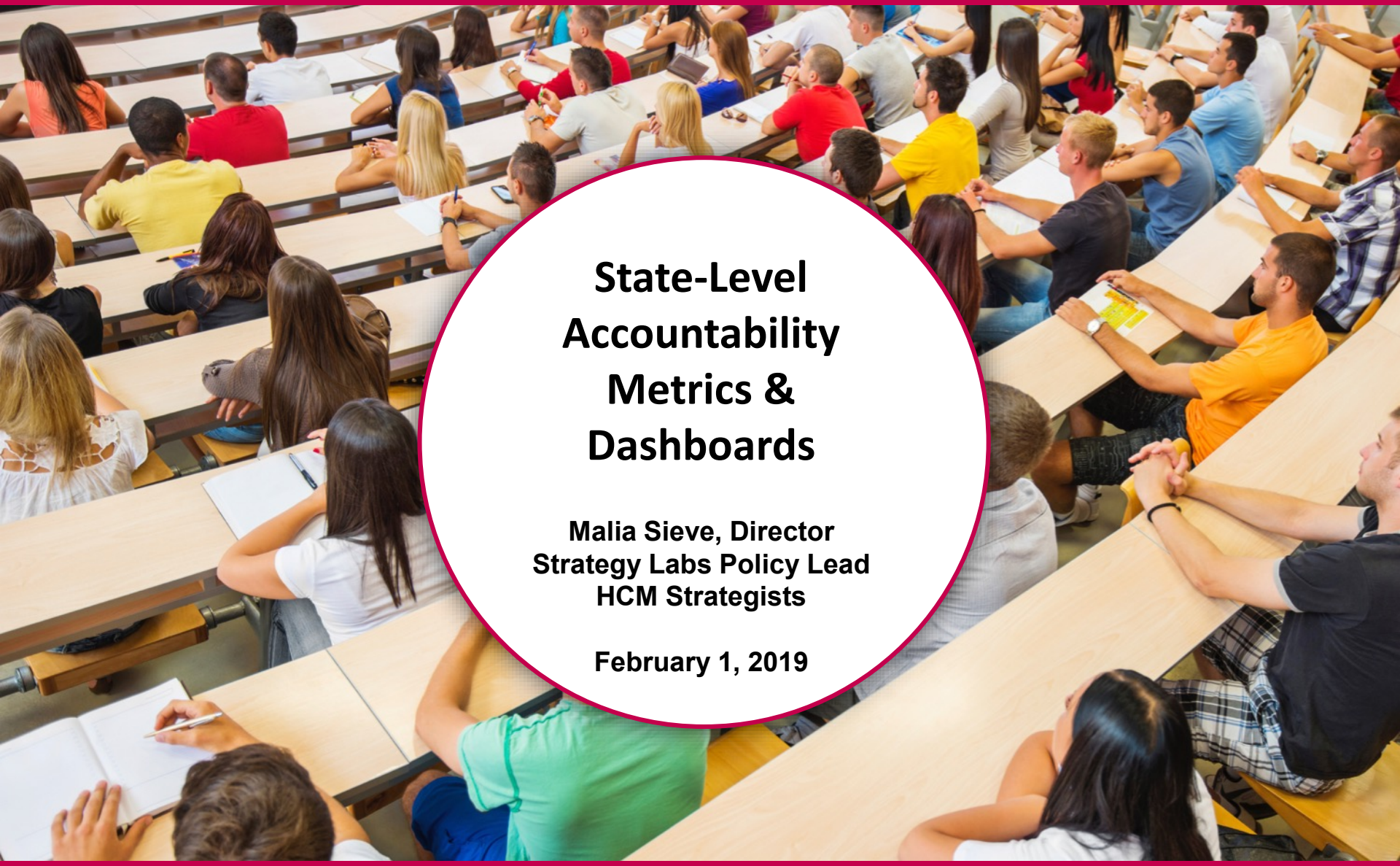

State-Level Accountability Metrics & Dashboards

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STRATEGY LABS

State Policy to Increase Higher Education Attainment

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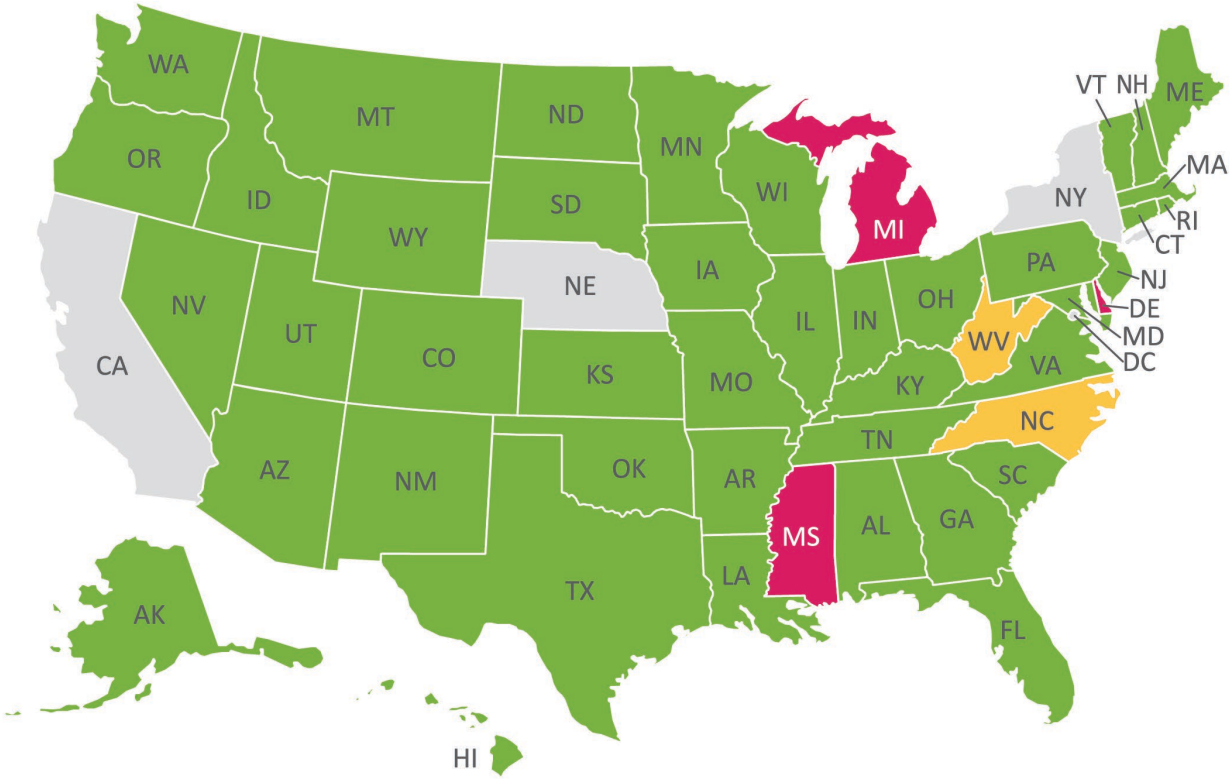
States with Attainment Goals

Updated as of September 2018



Has Strong Attainment Goal*

Has Attainment Goal with a Majority of Components of a Strong Goal

In Process of Developing an Attainment Goal

** A strong attainment goal is quantifiable, challenging, long-term, addresses closing equity gaps and is adopted in a way to drive policy and practice.*

Making the Case

State-level metrics and accountability dashboards can:

- Help track progress toward and maintain focus on attainment goals;
- Display information from across disparate data systems in one location;
- Help leadership to develop targets and evaluate outcomes; and
- Provide stakeholders a snapshot of where the state is on important indicators and the size of the gap to reach targets.

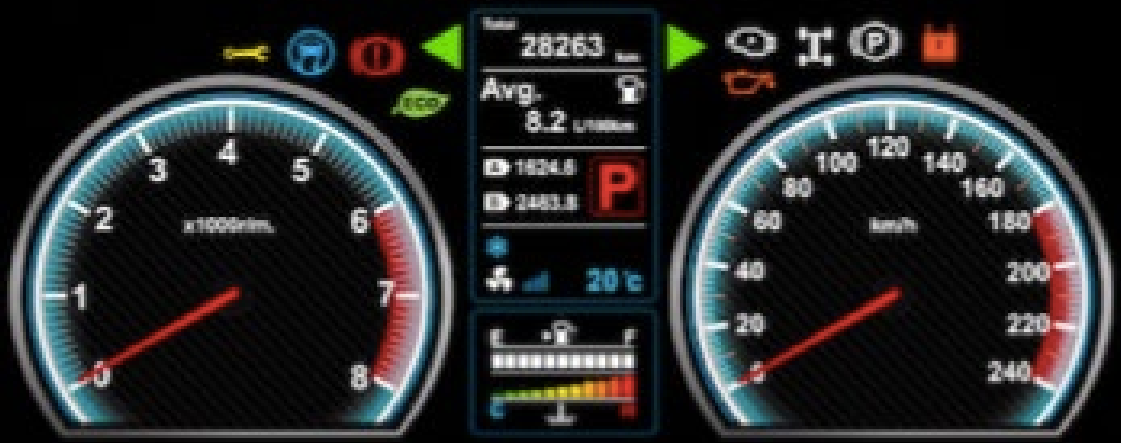
Select State-Level Progress Metrics

- *Start with discussions about state priorities, performance and needs in order to reach the goal*
- *Identify approximately 8-10 metrics*
  - Education Attainment
  - College Readiness
  - Enrollment
  - Progress and Completion
  - Affordability and Finance
  - Economic Development and Workforce

What do we mean by “dashboard”?

- A single display of a small number of important, high-level metrics
- Allows the user to relatively quickly understand the outcomes the state is trying to achieve and the progress it is making to get there

Think of a car dashboard...



Elements of a Well-Designed Accountability Dashboard

- *Aligns to the state's attainment goal*
- *Presents a limited number of high-level metrics (8-10)*
- *Disaggregates metrics by student demographics (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, income level, age) whenever possible*
- *Provides trend data*
- *Is updated when data become available, but minimally annually*
- ***A dashboard is NOT a state longitudinal data system (SLDS) or data fact book***

Key Steps

- *Identify key indicators of progress*
- *Ensure indicators are disaggregated to provide insights into gaps and progress for particular populations*
- *Develop a publicly-accessible, online dashboard that visually displays and explains the importance of these priority indicators*

State Exemplar

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