

About the Rennie Center

The Rennie Center's mission is to develop a public agenda that informs and promotes significant improvement in public education in Massachusetts.

Our work is motivated by a vision of an education system that creates the opportunity to educate every child to be successful in life, citizenship, employment and life-long learning.

Applying [nonpartisan, independent research](#), the Rennie Center creates a civil space to [foster thoughtful public discourse](#) to inform and shape effective policy.

Student Learning Plans: Supporting Every Student's Transition to College and Career

Representative Alice Peisch, House Chair, Massachusetts State
Legislature Joint Committee on Education

Jill Norton, Executive Director, Rennie Center

V. Scott Solberg, Associate Dean of Research & Faculty in Counseling &
Psychology, Boston University School of Education

Shift toward college and career readiness

2007

Developed Massachusetts High School Program of Studies (MassCore)

2008

Governor Patrick released Readiness Agenda with goal that 90% of students need no remediation

2010

Adopted Common Core Standards and joined Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Student Learning Plans

Student learning plans (SLPs) are student-driven planning and monitoring tools that provide opportunities to:

- identify postsecondary goals
- explore college and career options
- develop the skills necessary to be autonomous, self-regulated learners

May also be called: individual learning plans (ILP); individual graduation plans (IGP); personal plans of study (PPS); personal learning plans (PLP); and, individual academic and career plans (IACP).

Current Policies

Learning plans are currently required in MA for:

- Students enrolled in vocational technical programs
- Students who do not pass the 10th grade MCAS
- All students with documented disability (IEPs)

Pending legislation to:

- Create advisory group to investigate implementing a six-year career plan for all Massachusetts students in grades 6 to 12

Purpose of this policy brief

Inform policy discussions in MA:

- Rationale for student learning plans
- Overview of research
- Current trends in other states
- Promising implementation strategies
- Considerations for policymakers

Overview of Student Learning Plans

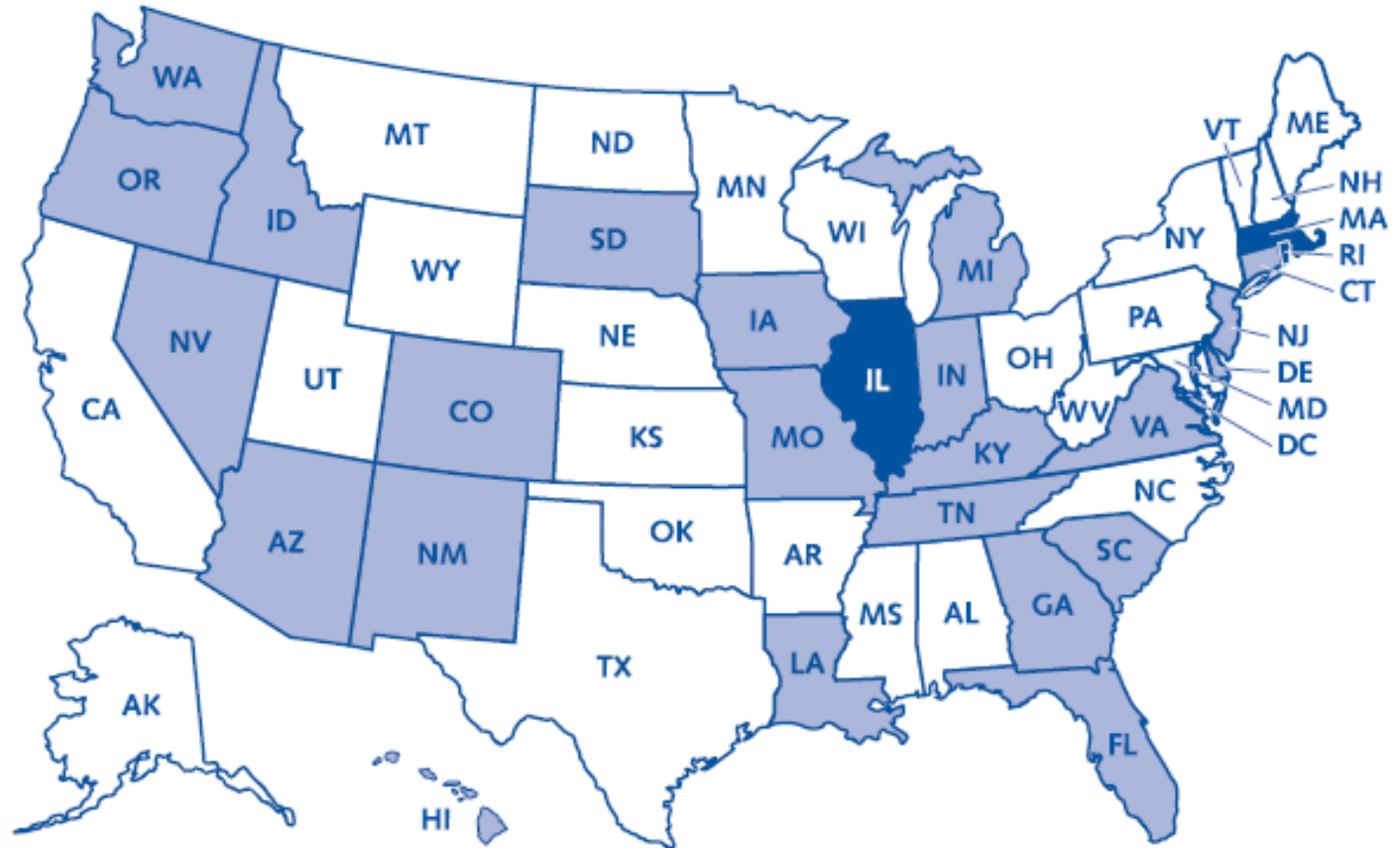
- Dynamic documents, collaborative development process
- Capture academic progress and other interests
- Strategy for:
 1. Supporting personalized learning
 2. Preparing all students for college and career

Research on SLP Effectiveness

- Improve motivation and engagement
- Improve students' understanding of postsecondary options and long-term planning
- Encourage family involvement in academic and career planning
- Develop student awareness of strengths and weaknesses
- Support students' relevant course selection

State Policy Trends

National view: State requirements for SLPs



- SLPs required for all students
- SLP legislation pending
- No requirement for SLPs

Common SLP Elements across States

- ☐ Collaborative development
- ☐ Comprehensive (academic, career, personal)
- ☐ Include assessment of skills and interests
- ☐ Connection to career pathways
- ☐ Flexibility
- ☐ Include portfolio development

Promising Implementation Strategies

- ❑ Teacher commitment and strong teacher-student relationships
- ❑ Strong school leadership, clear goals and support
- ❑ Adequate time for planning
- ❑ Tailored to local context
- ❑ Curricula and online tools
- ❑ Skill and interest assessments
- ❑ Long- and short-term goals
- ❑ Multi-faceted and relevant to students

Considerations for Policymakers

- Don't reinvent the wheel – lessons from other states
- Develop a comprehensive implementation plan
- Strengthen career counseling and awareness

For more information

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