

What's Up in the West?
Higher Ed and State Legislatures 2012



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas



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*WICHE Commissioners Meeting
May 2012*





Higher Education and State Legislatures

- Higher Education received significant attention in state legislatures
- State fiscal conditions improve at a slow and steady pace
- Higher Ed funding reform has dominated legislative discussions
- Other legislative actions have focused on improving productivity, completion and accountability





2012 State Legislative Sessions

Regular or short session this year:

Alaska	New Mexico
Arizona	Oregon
California	South Dakota
Colorado	Utah
Hawaii	Washington
Idaho	Wyoming

No session this year:

Montana
Nevada
North Dakota





State Fiscal Conditions Improve

- FY 2012: Fifteen states expect revenue collections to reach previous peak levels during the current fiscal year (*Hawaii, Oregon*)
- FY 2013: Minnesota, *Montana*, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Vermont
- FY 2014: *Colorado*, New Jersey, Rhode Island, *Washington* and West Virginia
- FY 2015: Florida, *Idaho* and Mississippi
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- FY 2016: *Arizona*, Georgia, Maine and South Carolina
- FY 2017: *California*
- FY 2018: Michigan



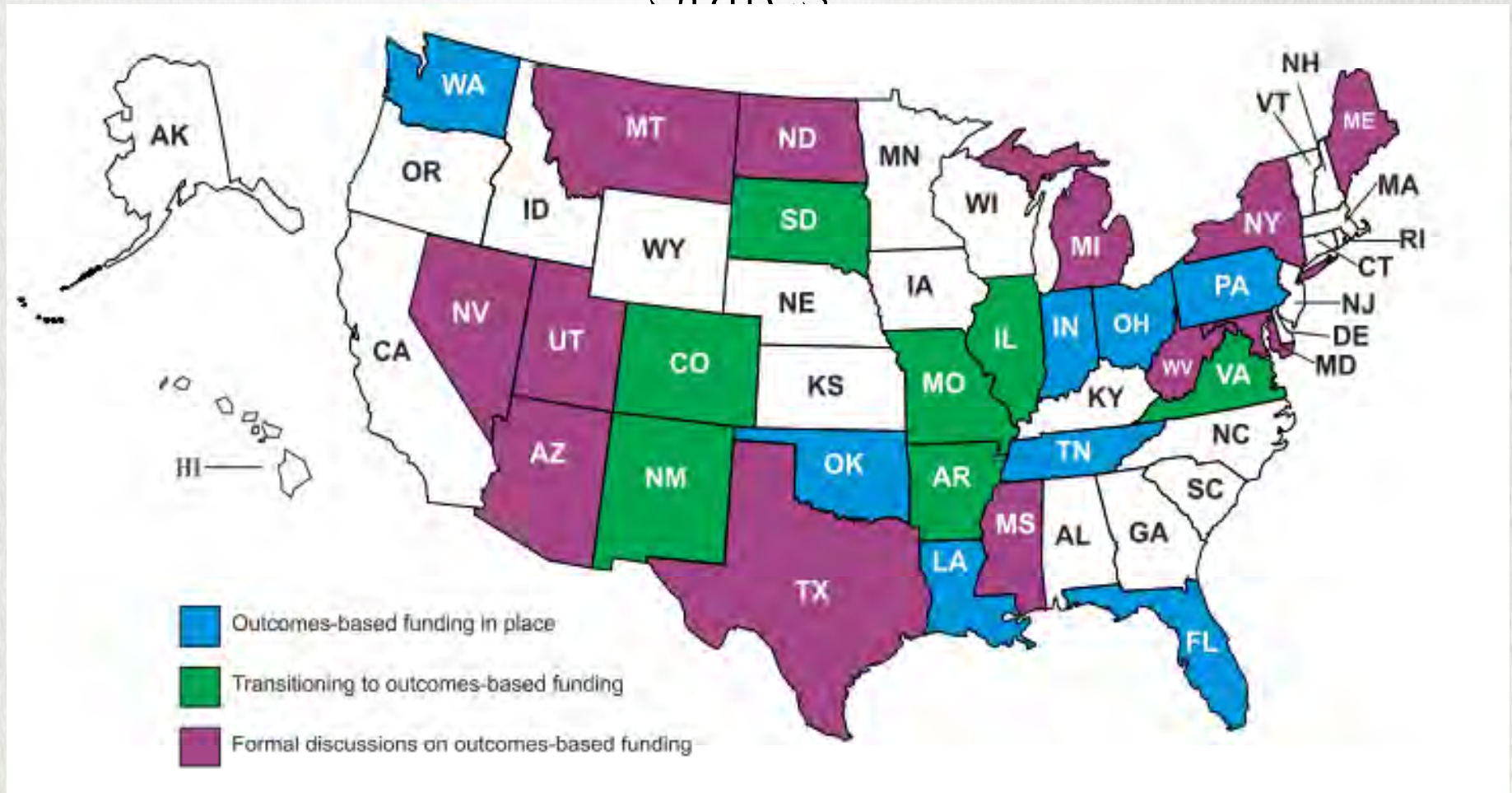


- Fourteen states report that a return to peak revenue collections is currently unknown or not in the forecast horizon (*Alaska, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming*)
- • *North Dakota* is the only state where tax collections never fell on a year-over-year basis.





Performance-Based Funding Activity in the States





Performance Funding in the West

Arizona: Board of Regents submitting a report on a new funding structure.

Colorado: In transition – 25% of general fund appropriation beginning after FY 15/16

Montana: Formal discussions being held.

New Mexico: New performance based formula makes up 5% of total funding to universities.

Nevada: Discussions being held.

North Dakota: Formal legislative discussions being held.

South Dakota: A performance funding pilot program begins July 1, 2012 using \$3 million in on-time state funding approved by the Legislature to be matched with another \$3 million from the base budgets of the 6 public universities.

Utah: Formal discussions continue following “mission based funding” as a basis for higher ed appropriations.

Washington: Program in place in community colleges. New program for four-year public universities.



Other Legislative Activity 2012

- Easing and facilitating articulation and transfer (and reverse transfer)
- College readiness/preparation
- Tuition/Financial Aid
- Supporting students (especially adults) with some credit but no degree
- Providing students with more flexibility and options
- Reform of developmental education
- Accountability of for-profit institutions
- Incorporating performance-based funding
- Workforce/higher ed planning



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