STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
AND LEARNING LOSS

Student achievement and learning loss issues were addressed by
at least 21 governors in their State of the State addresses. Many
of these governors expressed concerns about the learning loss
experienced by students whose education has been disrupted by
responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with the shift
from in-person to remote education. Some governors proposed
policy solutions to understand this issue more fully and to promote
an amelioration of such learning loss. At least eight governors
identified gaps in opportunity that are tied to factors, such as a student’s race or zip code and the
impact these opportunity gaps have on student achievement.

Alaska
Gov. Mike Dunleavy
Announced a directive for the state department of education to establish
summer camps to boost students’ reading, math and coding skills.

Connecticut
Gov. Ned Lamont
Emphasized the importance of public schools and workforce development
programs to ensure every child — regardless of zip code, race, color or creed —
has the best opportunity at the starting line of life.

Maryland
Gov. Larry Hogan
Proposed investment in targeted tutoring to further the vision that every single
child in Maryland deserves a world-class education.

Michigan
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer
Promised to reconvene the Return to School Advisory Council to provide
guidance to policymakers, districts and schools about how to promote a
comprehensive recovery to address learning loss.

Oklahoma
Gov. Kevin Stitt
Noted that distance learning widens the achievement gap and threatens
Oklahoma’s goal of being a Top 10 state in education.

Oregon
Gov. Kate Brown
Committed to making progress on closing the opportunity gap by ensuring
8,000 more children are eligible for home visiting, early head start and preschool
promise.

To learn more about state policy action in this area, see ECS’ State
Information Request on Learning Loss and Acceleration. Please also see
NGA’s memo on Summer Camps and Summer Learning Opportunities.