

What's Next for Low-Performing Schools?

State Plans Related to the Every
Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

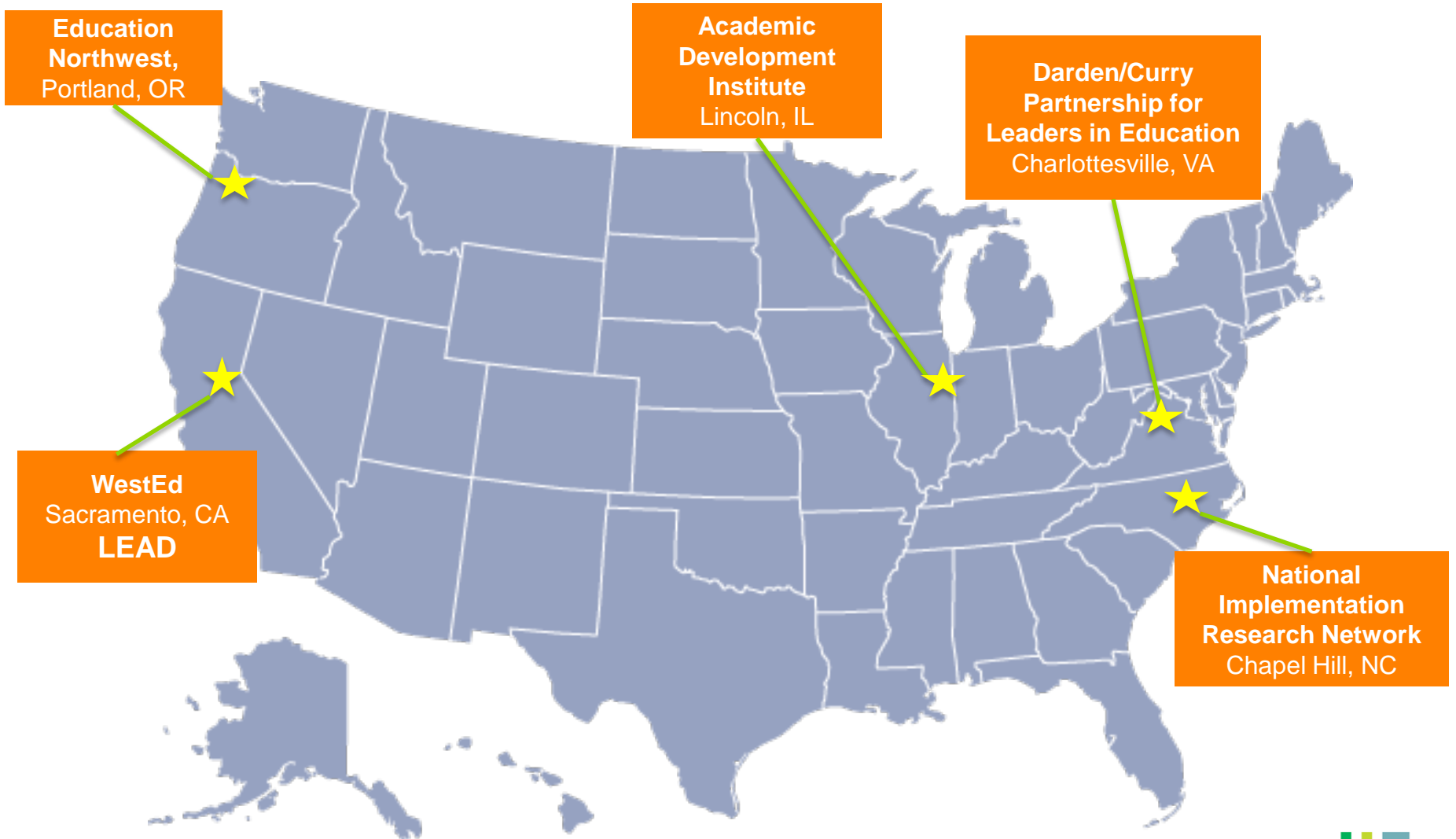
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Center on School Turnaround Partners



With ESSA there will be policy changes

WHY?

- More is left to states
- No separate funding stream
- No required tie between achievement and evaluation
- No specific interventions



But, Low-Performing Schools Still Matter



- Schools still identified
- “Evidence-based” approaches remain key
- Report cards add another factor
- Schools must have funding
- Testing policies continue



Research Questions

- Do SEA leaders anticipate states will change policies and practices for low-performing schools in response to ESSA overall?
- Will the extent of these changes vary by past policies?
- What about changes in specific school turnaround practices and policies related to ESSA?
- To what extent do SEA leaders report needing assistance?



Descriptive Study



- Center on School Turnaround
- 50 states, plus Puerto Rico

Surveys

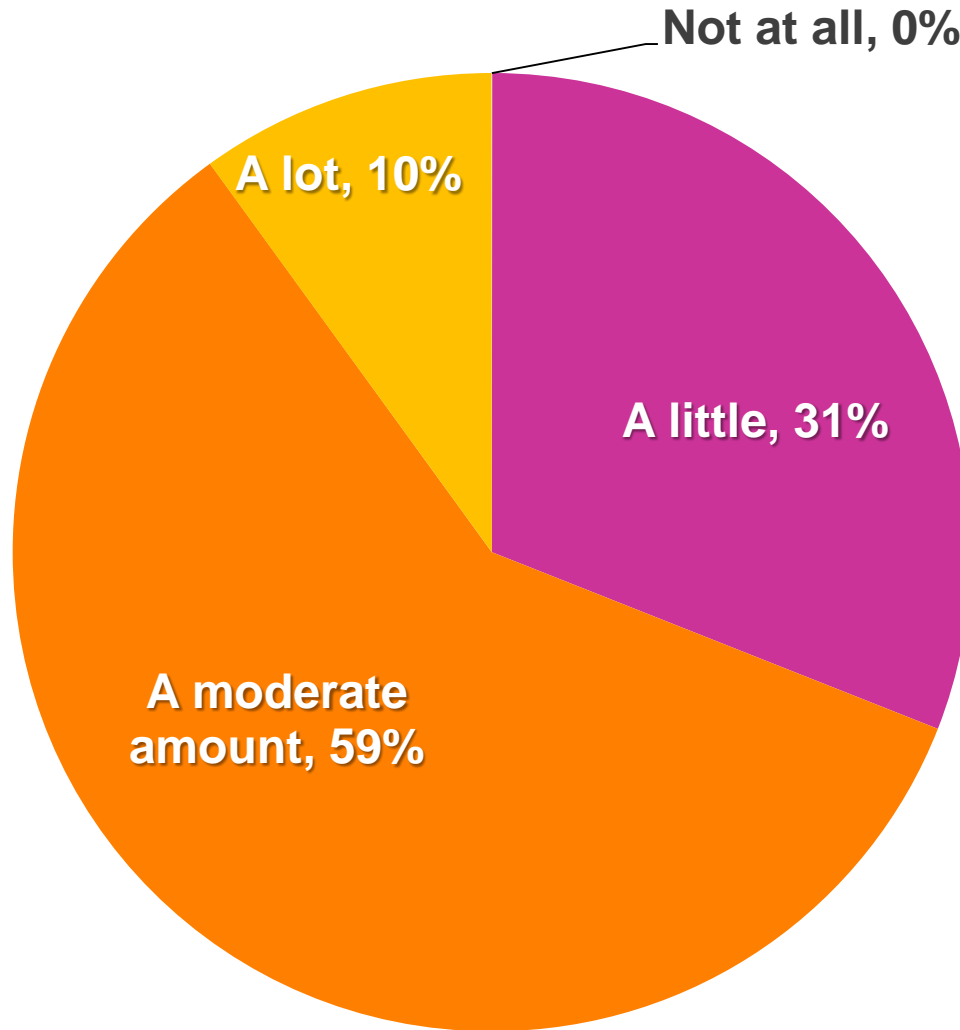


- REL Central Publication
- 50 state policies for low-performing schools

Document Review



SEAs Planning to Make Overall Changes to Policies or Practices Due to ESSA (n = 49)

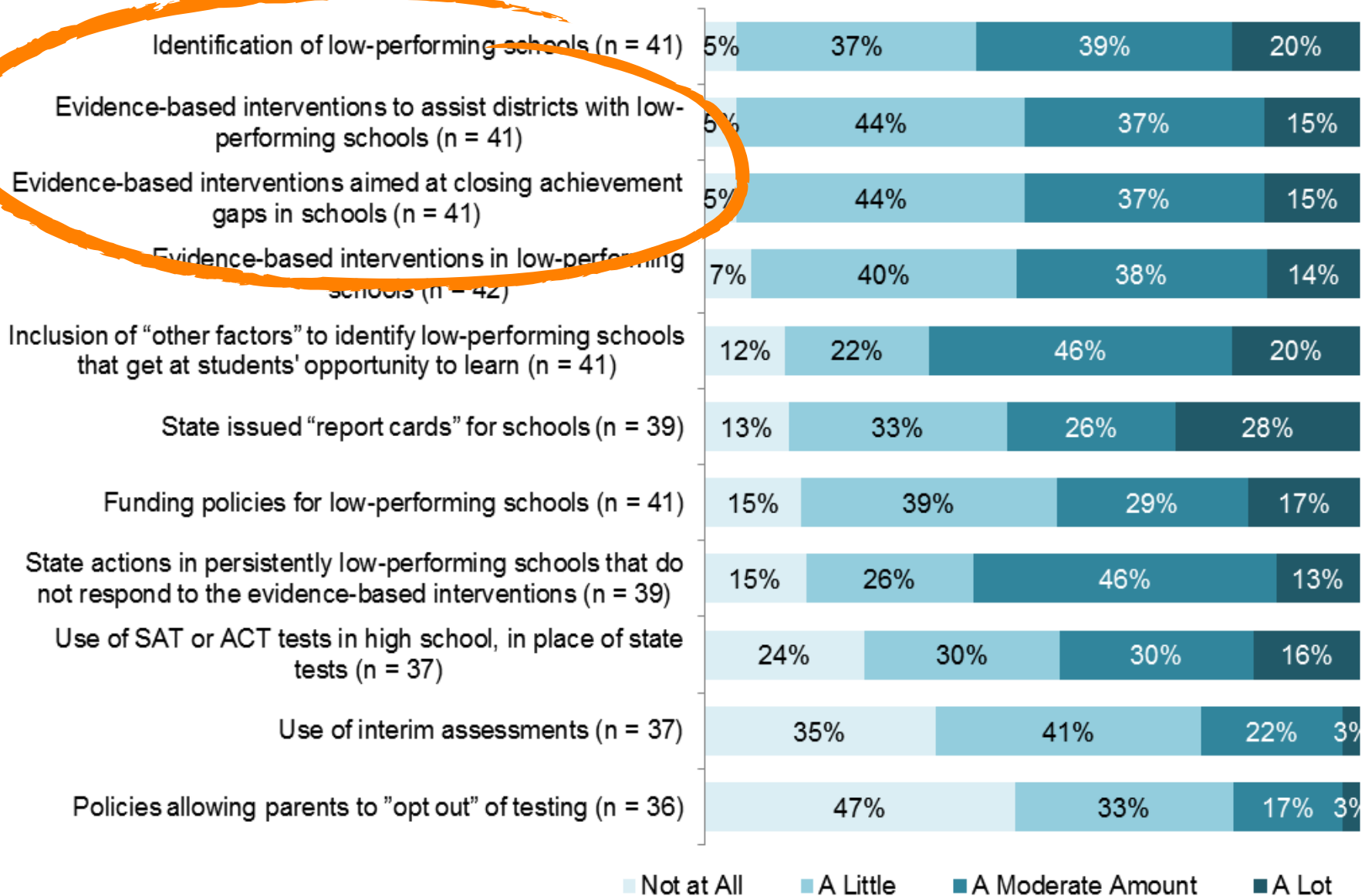


Variation Based on Past SEA Policy

- Reforms in the day-to-day operations of schools were associated with changing policies and practices at least “a moderate amount” ($\chi^2 (1, N = 48) = 4.652, p = .031$)
- The relationship between closing schools was not significantly related to reports of at least moderate changes related to ESSA.



SEAs Planning to Change Due to ESSA



Top 4 SEA Changes Related to ESSA and Turnaround

	Making Changes
Identification of low performing schools	95%
Evidence-based interventions to assist districts with low-performing schools	95%
Evidence-based interventions aimed at closing achievement gaps in schools	95%
Evidence-based interventions in low-performing schools	93%

Awaiting Guidance (as of spring 2016)

As other states are undoubtedly experiencing, we still lack clarity on many of the details of implementation. In particular, we would benefit from specific guidance on monitoring flexibilities (and efficient and effective monitoring best practices) within formula and competitive grants.



Engaging Stakeholders (As of Spring 2016)

We are currently evaluating our state accountability plan and will be moving forward to work with a stakeholder group to determine what will be included in our ESSA plan.

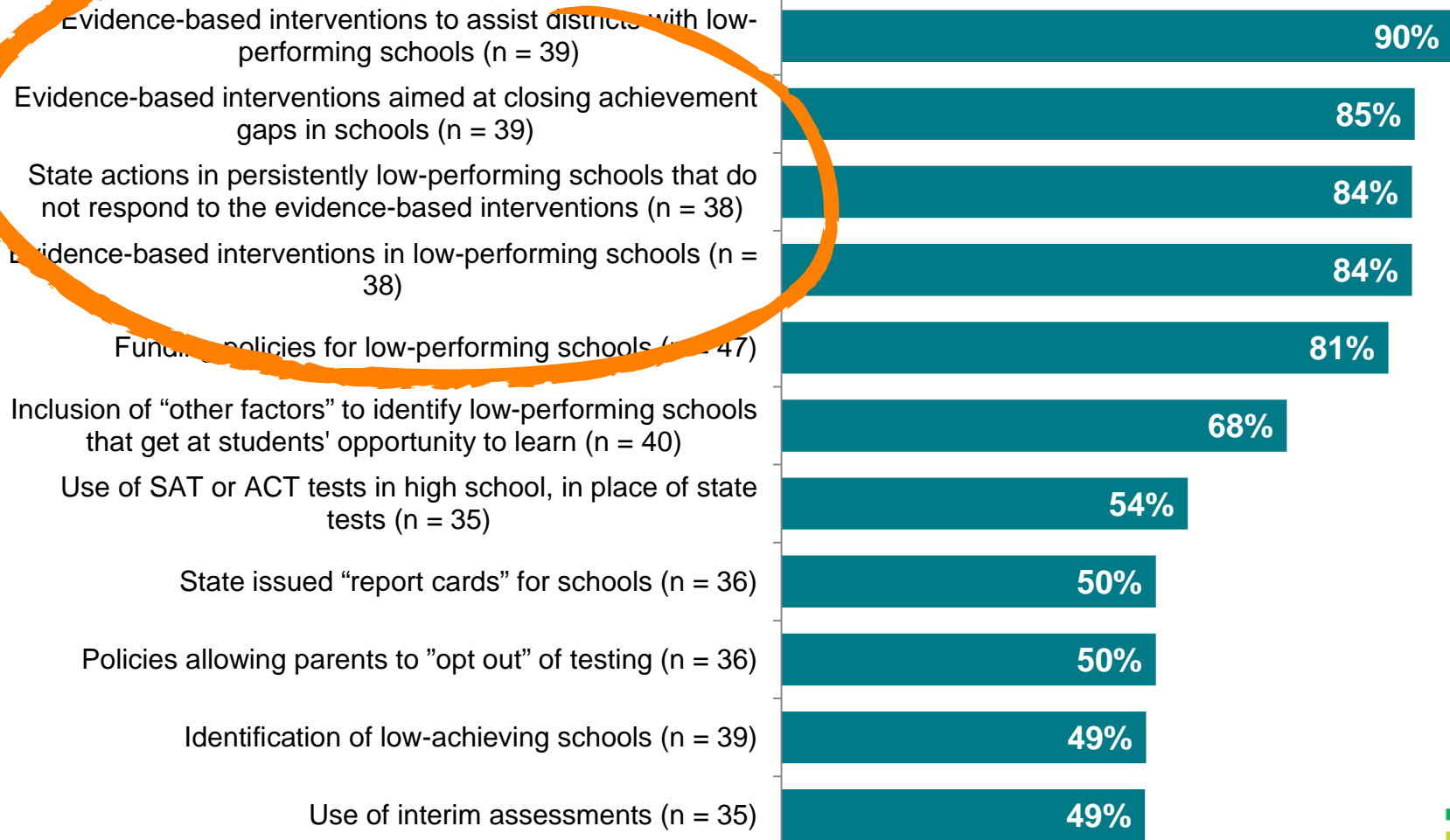
SEA Leader

We are in the process of holding stakeholder meetings through advisory committees in our community to inform next steps.

SEA Leader



SEAs that could benefit from assistance Related to Turnaround in ESSA



Top 5 SEA Needs for Assistance and Changes Related to ESSA and Turnaround

	Needs	Making Changes
Evidence-based interventions to assist districts with low-performing schools	90%	95%
Evidence-based interventions aimed at closing achievement gaps in schools	85%	95%
Evidence-based interventions in low-performing schools	84%	93%
State actions in persistently low-performing schools that do not respond to the evidence-based interventions	84%	85%
Funding policies for low-performing schools	81%	83%

Findings Summary

- All states were rethinking policy and practice and nearly 70% planned to change policy and practice at least “a moderate amount”
- States with past policies on day-to-day reforms were more likely to report change
- Many state were changing to evidence-based approaches and wanted help with this



More Changes May Be Necessary



The federal administration has

- Further relaxed reporting requirements
- Signaled budget cuts for many federal and state education programs
- Potential new ways to spend funds



Recommendations

Support states and districts

- Regional Educational Laboratories

- Comprehensive Centers

- Others (education service agencies, non-governmental agencies, universities)



Future Directions for Research



- Document state changes in policy and practice
- Explore associations between past and current policy
- Assess implementation and impacts
- Disseminate information



Questions?



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