

## **2006 CCSSO Summer Institute “Think Abouts”**

The Summer Institute Program Collaborators offer the following sets of questions to provide one frame for the way you think about educational improvements. Using a global lens, these “think abouts” suggest policy, practice, partnership, and leadership issues that you might investigate with your staff and leaders within your state.

### **System “Think Abouts” – Policy, Practice, and Partnerships**

#### **Policy**

- What are your state’s *current and future connections* to other parts of the world, including economic development/jobs, cultural exchanges, and population diversity? What policies or initiatives is your state undertaking to improve these connections?
- Has your state developed explicit *policies* to promote global knowledge and skills? Does it have a *mechanism* and a specific organizational entity responsible for driving the state effort?
- Do your state’s existing *standards, assessments, and graduation requirements* incorporate global content in clear and specific ways across all of the major subject areas? Are competencies and dispositions beyond world languages included in your standards (such as world geography, cultural competency, comfort with diversity, and tolerance)?
- How is international education incorporated into *other school reform efforts* already under way in your state, such as middle and high school reform, early childhood, literacy and after-school programs, civics education, K–16 alliances?

#### **Practice**

- Are current *teacher preparation and certification* programs up to the challenge of preparing the next generation of teachers to teach about the world?
- What opportunities do students in your state have to learn *world languages*, including less commonly taught languages? How could these be expanded? How can your state increase the number of world language teachers?
- Does your state *identify and disseminate best practices* in existing schools or offer *incentives* to create more globally-oriented schools?
- How could your state’s *technology and distance learning* infrastructure be used to strengthen international education?

## **Partnerships**

- Does your state use the international *resources of higher education and the business community* to promote students and teachers' global knowledge/skills?
- Does your state support student, teacher, and school leader participation in *international partnerships and exchanges*?

## **Personal Professional “Think Abouts” – Leadership**

Chiefs on the CCSSO Professional Development Committee offer the following “think abouts” related to your personal professional leadership.

### **Leadership**

- Do you routinely *benchmark* other nations before presenting policy options?
- Have you *presented data* about your academic achievement relative to that of other nations to your board and colleagues this year?
- Have you *traveled abroad* professionally within the last two years then talked and written about the experience?
- Are you *fluent* in a language other than English, and if not will you commit to doing something about that this year?
- Do you *include business and academic leaders with global perspectives* in educational policy debates? How?
- Have you developed and do you commonly use *sources of information about global topics* in education, business, finance, politics, and other social issues?
- How might *key stakeholders* in your state respond differently than you did to any of the questions above? What will you do about this?