A NEW ERA FOR ESEA
THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT
ESSA, signed on December 15, 2015, builds on our progress and solidifies many of the reforms the Department has championed for the last 7 years.
EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

THE BIG PICTURE

THE BIPARTISAN BILL TO FIX NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND WILL HELP

ENSURE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF AMERICA’S STUDENTS:

- Holds all students to high academic standards
- Prepares all students for success in college and career
- Provides more kids access to high-quality preschool
- Guarantees steps are taken to help students, and their schools, improve
- Reduces the burden of testing while maintaining annual information for parents and students
- Promotes local innovation and invests in what works
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STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS

- Requires, for the first time in law, that all students be taught to college- and career-ready standards
- Maintains annual assessments while supporting efforts to reduce the burden of unnecessary or ineffective testing
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ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- Empowers State and local leaders to continue refining their own systems for school improvement
- Maintains the expectation for accountability and action in any school where groups of students are struggling:
  - the lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools,
  - high schools where a third of students fail to graduate
  - schools where subgroups are chronically low-performing
- Encourages multiple measures, such as school climate, in measuring a school’s success, but maintains a strong focus on academic achievement
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TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

- Ensures that low-income and minority students are not being taught at disproportionate rates by ineffective teachers
- Invests in States and districts that are looking to implement new human capital management systems for educators to include sustainable performance-based compensation (like ED’s TIF program)
- Supports innovative and evidence-based approaches to teacher and leader recruitment, preparation, and development
- Does not require State educator evaluation systems
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EQUITY AND STUDENT SUPPORT

Maintains dedicated funding and protections for groups of vulnerable students by:

- not including portability provisions that siphon funds away from the students and schools most in need
- increasing the role of poverty in allocating Title II professional learning funds
- supporting States to provide high-quality educational and support programs for migratory children
- ensuring educational continuity for children and youth in state-operated institutions, including institutions for delinquent youth or adult correctional facilities
- ensuring that homeless children have access to free and appropriate education
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EQUITY AND STUDENT SUPPORT

- Maintains dedicated **funding for low-performing schools**
- Increases transparency for **critical equity data**, such as:
  - reporting on actual per pupil school-level spending
  - reporting on equity measures including rates of student discipline, chronic absenteeism, per-pupil expenditures, and access to preschool and advanced coursework
- Authorizes **flexible funding** to all States to increase access to a well-rounded education, improve conditions for learning, and improve the use of technology in the classroom
- Maintains 21st Century Community Learning Centers, focused on students in **high-poverty and low-performing schools**
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COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS

- Includes **competitive grants** similar to many of ED’s signature programs to promote local innovation and invest in what works
- These include grants to provide **continued support** for:
  - high-performing charter schools for high-need students and magnet schools
  - comprehensive, place-based wraparound interventions, similar to the Promise Neighborhoods program
  - identification, replication and scaling of local innovation and evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes for high-need students, similar to the Investing In Innovation (i3) program
  - magnet schools that eliminate racial isolation and improve academic achievement under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program
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PRESCHOOL AND EARLY LEARNING

- Gives more kids access to high-quality preschool through the authorization of Preschool Development Grants
- Includes a comprehensive literacy program for children from birth to grade 12, targeted to low-income students
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TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- ESSA provides time and authority for ED to work with our State and local partners to ensure a smooth and orderly transition from NCLB and ESEA Flexibility.

- It is important that we get regulations, guidance and technical assistance out to support high-quality implementation of the law.

- ED has begun communicating with States and districts regarding the transition and will continue to provide guidance over the coming weeks and months.
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TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- States and districts should **continue to implement** the activities and programs they have in place now through the end of the 2015-2016 school year

- ED continues to meet with teachers, administrators, the civil rights community and others to inform the development of regulations and guidance

- ED is **receiving input from all stakeholders** to help support high-quality transition to, and implementation of, the new law

- Transition FAQ’s are available on our ESSA webpage at www.ed.gov/ESSA
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REGULATIONS AND NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

- In early February, ED put out a notice of intent to engage in negotiated rulemaking in two key topic areas: Title I-A assessments and “supplement not supplant.”
- These sessions are open to the public and will be hosted at the Department on:
  - March 21-23
  - April 6-8
  - April 18-19 (possible third session)
- On March 4, 2016 ED announced a slate of negotiators representing diverse viewpoints and a wide variety of constituencies.
QUESTIONS?

- Email Inbox: ESSA.Questions@ed.gov

- Main ESSA Page: www.ED.gov/ESSA

RESOURCES
AVAILABLE ON ED.GOV/ESSA

Negotiated Rulemaking Resources:

- List of Non Federal Negotiators and Materials (March 4, 2016)
- ESSA Webinar: PowerPoint and Audio (February 17, 2016)
- Federal Register Notice (February 3, 2016)
- FAQs (February 3, 2016)

Guidance and Regulatory Information:

- ESSA Dear Colleague Letter (January 28, 2016)
- ESSA Webinar: PowerPoint and Audio (December 22, 2016)
- Dear Colleague Letter on the Transition to ESSA (December 18, 2015)
- Dear Colleague Letter on the New ESSA Law (December 10, 2015)
RESOURCES
AVAILABLE ON ED.GOV/ESSA

General Resources:

- [Transition FAQs](#)
- [Read the Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- [White House Fact Sheet on House Passage of ESSA](#)