Americans for the Arts

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Opportunities & Requirements in the Post-ESSA World
“With great power comes great responsibility.”
Requires assurance that states adopt challenging academic content standards in reading, math, and science with three levels of achievement that are aligned with entrance requirements for credit-bearing coursework in the states’ higher education system as well as the state’s career and technical education standards.
ESSA Opportunities - Standards

- May set standards in other areas
- Opportunity to move beyond a compliance model
ESSA Requirements - Assessments

- Requires annual testing in math and ELA in grades 3–8 and once in high school

- Requires state testing in science annually in grade spans 3–5, 6–8, and 10–12.

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ESSA Opportunities - Assessments

- Give a single summative test or break up the assessment into smaller components given throughout the year.
- Allow LEAs to use a nationally-recognized high school academic assessment (like the SAT) in lieu of a state-developed assessment,
- Create a new locally-designed competency-based and performance-based assessment?
ESSA Requirements - Accountability

- Requires state–developed accountability systems that
  - Include performance goals for each subgroup,
  - Annually measure student performance based on state assessments,
  - For high schools: annually measure graduation rates,
ESSA Opportunities - Accountability

- Other measure of student success is required
- What do you value?
- How can you use accountability to move beyond compliance?
ESSA Requirements - Turnarounds

- Interventions
  - For the bottom 5 percent of schools and for high schools with graduation rates of 67 percent or less:
    - Districts develop evidence-based plans.
    - States monitor turnaround efforts.

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If schools continue to struggle for up to four years, states decide on corrective action: take over a school, replace principal and staff, or convert the school into a charter.

Districts could also allow students to transfer out of seriously low-performing schools, but they have to give priority to the students who need it most.
ESSA Opportunities - Turnarounds

- States have flexibility in determining an approach
- States can set aside up to 7 percent of their Title I funds for school turnarounds (up from 4 percent in current law).
Further Questions?

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