



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was a bill approved by Congress in December 2015 to grant states more flexibility for strategic, customized plans for education.

[The Every Student Succeeds Act](#) replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB). ESSA encourages states and schools to innovate, while at the same time maintaining a focus on accountability, an emphasis on state and local systems of improvement, and a more balanced assessment system.

ESSA establishes a framework for preparing [Alabama's](#) students for life beyond K-12, whether that is attending college or pursuing a career. A prepared graduate should have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in college, technical, or trade schools, or enter directly into the workplace without having to take remedial courses.

ESSA will help guide and improve the educational landscape in [Alabama](#) and reflects many of our state's educational priorities. A [Task Force](#) was established by the Governor to determine how Alabama can put in place a more equitable educational system.

The Task Force, which is comprised of educators, lawmakers, school board members and parent advocates, is currently meeting and seeking recommendations on how the state should:

- Hold local school systems accountable for improvement
- Improve teacher effectiveness
- Determine when the State Department of Education should intervene on behalf of failing systems, among other topics.

A community engagement tour was held in late summer 2016 to gain input from stakeholders at eight stops around the state and comments continue to be taken.

There are 3 easy ways for all stakeholders to give input on ESSA:

- Email ALSDE at essawg@alsde.edu
- Complete the form on the Governor's Task Force site (until Oct 30) <https://form.jotform.com/61555715735158>
- Complete the form on Alabama GRIT's site <http://www.alabamagrit.org/essa> and it will be directly sent to the ALSDE email

The committee work will continue throughout 2016, culminating with a vote by the Alabama State Board of Education, a submission to Governor Bentley, and submission to USDE in Spring of 2017.

