



Helpful websites and contact information:

The Alabama Every Student Succeeds Act Implementation Committee is interested in your ideas! Comments will be accepted until October 30 at <https://form.jotform.com/61555715735158>.

The Alabama State Department of Education's ESSA website.

Email ALSDE your comments at essawg@alsde.edu



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What is ESSA?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOUR 2016



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 replaces the No Child Left Behind Act.

States must submit plans for implementing **ESSA** by Spring of 2017. **ESSA** provides greater flexibility and decision-making to States and prohibits the US Department of Education or other federal agencies from dictating or requiring specific curriculum or specific tests. **ESSA** rules govern Alabama's federal education programs funding for over \$500,000,000 annually.



#ESSAAlabama

Features of ESSA

What is included:

- Alabama determines **teacher certification** requirements.
- Alabama determines **education standards** and student testing.
- Alabama determines **annual achievement goals** and sets criteria for reporting school and school system performance.
- **Stakeholders** must be included in the planning process.

*What is **NOT** included:*

- Federal requirements and definitions for “**highly qualified**” teachers.
- Federal definitions of **education standards** and federal selection of student tests.
- Federal definitions of “**Adequate Yearly Progress**” (AYP) and failing schools.
- Federal decisions about **interventions** for poor performing schools.

ESSA Student Achievement Measures

- Testing is required in **Math** and **English Language Arts** in Grades **3-8** and once in **high school**.
- Testing is required in **science** once in elementary grades, once in middle grades, and once in high school.
- **States determine the tests** to be used; states may use national tests such as ACT for high school.
- Results of testing must be reported by **broken out student groups** (poverty, ethnicity, special education, ELL, migrant status, homeless, foster, etc.)
- Requires that **95% of students** participate in state tests.
- Results must be reported in **at least three** performance levels.

ESSA Education Standards

- State-defined **education standards** in English language arts and math must be aligned to credit-bearing coursework in state universities (reducing the need for retaking high school level classes in college.)
- The US Department of Education is **prohibited** from making states use education standards.
- States develop **education standards** for all subjects and all grade levels.
- Measures of mastery of **education standards** must be reported by at least three performance levels (such as “**exceeds standards**,” “**meets standards**,” or achievement is “**below standards**”

ESSA Reporting of School and District Accountability Report

- States develop **accountability reporting plans** for U.S. Department of Education approval.
- Must “**meaningfully separate**” school performance.
- Must contain at least four measures including **achievement**, **graduation rate**, and **at least one other** measure which may be a growth measure.
- Report cards must break out data **by student groups**.
- Report cards must contain **at least one non-academic measure** of quality broken out by student group (like college readiness, access to advanced coursework, or career credentials)
- AYP is **replaced** by state-defined measures of performance.
- States must continue to **report progress toward closing achievement gaps**.

School Improvement under ESSA

- States must identify schools for “**comprehensive support and improvement**” and “**targeted support and improvement**”
- States must identify schools in the **lowest 5%** of performance and high schools with **graduation rates below 67%**.
- States must identify schools with **persistently poor performance** by student groups **at least every three years**.
- Local school systems are responsible for **monitoring school improvement plans** that are evidence-based and that address school level needs.
- After **three years with no improvement**, the state will assist.

Other features of ESSA

- Contains features to continue programs to **assist English Language Learners**.
- Includes **preschool development** grant programs to ensure access to quality early childhood programs.
- **Early childhood programs** are eligible for literacy funding.
- Includes programs to improve achievement for students in **foster care**, students involved in the **juvenile justice system**, and students in **danger of dropping out of school**.
- Continues the requirement that **federal funds** be used to “**add to**” but not “**replace**” other types of education funding.