



# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

en Español (<http://www2.ed.gov/espanol/essa/index.html?src=essa>)

## Update: ESSA Consolidated State Plans

### Templates

- [Revised Consolidated State Plan Template](https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/revisedessastateplanguidance.docx) (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/revisedessastateplanguidance.docx>)
- [Crosswalk of Consolidated State Plan Requirements](https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/stateplancrosswalk31017.docx) (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/stateplancrosswalk31017.docx>)

### Resources

- [Press Release](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-secretary-education-betsy-devos-announces-release-updated-essa-consolidated-state-plan-template) (<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-secretary-education-betsy-devos-announces-release-updated-essa-consolidated-state-plan-template>)
- [Fact Sheet](https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/stateplanfactsheet.docx) (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/stateplanfactsheet.docx>)
- [Secretary DeVos Letter regarding updated consolidated State plans](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/170313.html) (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/170313.html>) (March 13, 2017)
- [Secretary DeVos' Letter to States regarding consolidated State plans](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/170210.html) (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/170210.html>) (February 10, 2017)
- [ESSA technical assistance resources](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oss/technicalassistance/index.html) (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oss/technicalassistance/index.html>)

## A New Education Law

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country.

For example, today, high school graduation rates are at all-time highs. Dropout rates are at historic lows. And more students are going to college than ever before. These achievements provide a firm foundation for further work to expand educational opportunity and improve student outcomes under ESSA.

The previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, was enacted in 2002. NCLB represented a significant step forward for our nation's children in many respects, particularly as it shined a light on where students were making progress and where they needed additional support, regardless of race, income, zip code, disability, home language, or background. The law was scheduled for revision in 2007, and, over time, NCLB's prescriptive requirements became increasingly unworkable for schools and educators. Recognizing this fact, in 2010, the Obama administration joined a call from educators and families to create a better law that focused on the clear goal of fully preparing all students for success in college and careers.

Congress has now responded to that call.

The Every Student Succeeds Act reflects many of the priorities of this administration.

## ESSA Highlights

President Obama signs the Every Student Succeeds Act into law on December 10, 2015.

ESSA includes provisions that will help to ensure success for students and schools. Below are just a few. The law:

- Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students.
- Requires—for the first time—that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- Helps to support and grow local innovations—including evidence-based and place-based interventions developed by local leaders and educators—consistent with our [Investing in Innovation](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html) (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>) and

## How Do I Find...?

- Student loans, forgiveness (<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-college.html?src=rn>)
- Higher Education Rulemaking (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/higherrecsrc=rn>)
- College accreditation (<https://www.ed.gov/accreditation?src=rn>)
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (<https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=rn>)
- FERPA (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov?src=rn>)
- FAFSA (<https://fafsa.gov/?src=edgov-rn>)
- 1098, tax forms (<https://www.ed.gov/1098-e?src=rn>)
- More... (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/top-tasks.html?src=rn>)

## Information About...

- Elevating Teaching (<https://www.ed.gov/teaching?src=rn>)
- Family and Community Engagement (<https://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement?src=rn>)
- Early Learning (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/its/initiatives/edl207.pdf>) (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/its/initiatives/edl207.pdf>)
- Postsecondary Student Progress (<https://www.ed.gov/ost?src=rn>)
- Constitution Day (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/cybersecurity>)
- Cybersecurity (<https://tech.ed.gov/cyberhelp/>)

### Recent Updates

#### Final Regulations: Assessments—Title I Parts A & B

(<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaassessments1207.pdf>)

#### FAQs: Transitioning to the ESSA

(<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essatransition1711.pdf>)

#### Key ESSA resources, including guidance and regulatory information

(<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html>)

#### Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act

(<https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ95/PLAW-114publ95.pdf>) (PDF, 1.2MB)

### Have questions?

#### Sign up for email updates about ESSA

([https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USED\\_28](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic_id=USED_28))

[Promise Neighborhoods \(http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html\)](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html)

- Sustains and expands this administration's historic investments in increasing access to high-quality [preschool \(http://www.ed.gov/early-learning\)](http://www.ed.gov/early-learning).
- Maintains an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time.

## History of ESEA

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, who believed that "full educational opportunity" should be "our first national goal." From its inception, ESEA was a civil rights law.

ESEA offered new grants to districts serving low-income students, federal grants for textbooks and library books, funding for special education centers, and scholarships for low-income college students. Additionally, the law provided federal grants to state educational agencies to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education.

## NCLB and Accountability

NCLB put in place measures that exposed achievement gaps among traditionally underserved students and their peers and spurred an important national dialogue on education improvement. This focus on accountability has been critical in ensuring a quality education for all children, yet also revealed challenges in the effective implementation of this goal.

Parents, educators, and elected officials across the country recognized that a strong, updated law was necessary to expand opportunity to all students; support schools, teachers, and principals; and to strengthen our education system and economy.

In 2012, the Obama administration began granting flexibility to states regarding specific requirements of NCLB in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state- developed plans designed to close achievement gaps, increase equity, improve the quality of instruction, and increase outcomes for all students.

## What's Next?

Over the next few weeks, the U.S. Department of Education will work with states and districts to begin implementing the new law. Visit this page for updates and [sign up for news about ESSA \(https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USED\\_28\)](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic_id=USED_28).

## Have questions?

- [Sign up for email updates \(https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USED\\_28\)](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic_id=USED_28) about ESSA.

*Our mission* is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

**Student Loans**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-college.html?src=ft>)

**Repaying Loans**  
(<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment?src=ft>)

**Defaulted Loans**  
(<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/default?src=ft>)

**Loan Forgiveness**  
(<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation?src=ft>)

**Loan Servicers** (<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/servicers?src=ft>)

**Grants & Programs**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html?src=ft>)

**Apply for Pell Grants** (<https://fafsa.gov/?src=ft>)

**Grants Forecast**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html?src=ft>)

**Apply for a Grant**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html?src=ft>)

**Eligibility for Grants**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/find/elig/index.html?src=ft>)

**Laws & Guidance**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/landing.jhtml?src=ft>)

**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**  
(<https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=ft>)

**FERPA** (<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/?src=ft>)

**Civil Rights**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/know.html?src=ft>)

**IDEA Website** (<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/?src=ft>)

**Data & Research**  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/landing.jhtml?src=ft>)

**Education Statistics** (<https://nces.ed.gov/?src=ft>)

**Postsecondary Education Data**  
(<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/?src=ft>)

**ED Data Express**  
(<https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/?src=ft>)

**Nation's Report Card**  
(<https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/?src=ft>)

**What Works Clearinghouse**  
(<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/?src=ft>)

**Open Data Platform** (<https://data.ed.gov?src=ft>)

**COVID Relief Data** (<https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov?src=ft>)

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