

# ESSA Implementation: What's Next?

April 2017



## **Implementation Planning**

Implementation planning for Oregon's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will continue to include the ongoing engagement of stakeholders across the state. Starting in Spring 2017 and extending into the 2017-18 school year, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) will convene stakeholders to help redesign the school report card, develop criteria and a process to select a nationally recognized assessment for high schools, and revise the Oregon Framework for Educator Evaluations. Details and timelines will be forthcoming. To ensure an integrated approach to implementation, ODE staff will continue to work across offices and teams, including the Early Learning and Youth Development Divisions, to improve its supports to students, schools, and educators.

## **Guidance on Federal Programs Under ESSA**

ODE is developing guidance documents to provide school and district leaders, grant administrators and educators an overview of federal programs under ESSA. Guidance will include how funds can work together to support state and district priorities and maximize funding flexibility. New guidance materials will be posted to the [ODE ESSA website](#) in May.

ODE will provide sessions on ESSA implementation at the 2017 Confederation of Oregon School Administrators Summer Teaching, Learning and Assessment Institute, August 1-4, 2017. In addition, ODE plans to conduct regional workshops in August and early Fall of 2017 to provide educators with interactive sessions to support implementation, particularly to leverage opportunities to align and support federal programs under ESSA.

## **Educator Evaluations Under ESSA**

ESSA removes the requirement for educator evaluations to include a Student Learning and Growth (SLG) goal tied to student performance on state assessments. In May 2017 a small work group consisting of participants from the original Senate Bill 290 workgroup and the ESSA Educator Effectiveness workgroup will convene to review the instrument used to calculate educator's summative evaluation scores, known as the Oregon Matrix, and recommend revisions to the Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) governing educator evaluations in Oregon.

## **Report Card and Parent Engagement**

ODE has begun the process of redesigning the school and district report cards to align with implementation of the State Plan, with significant stakeholder input. As part of this work, ODE will engage with parents and parent groups to help ensure that the report card meets their needs. The report card will also be designed to help advance communications and conversations between families and their schools. ODE anticipates finalizing designs in December 2017.

## **Support for Private Schools Under ESSA**

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, Oregon and other states must designate a state ombudsperson as the primary point of contact for state education agencies (SEAs), local education agencies (LEAs) and private schools on issues and questions concerning this provision under Title 1A (Improving Basic Programs), Title IIA (Supporting Effective Instruction) and Title VIII (General Provisions).

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## Assessment for Learning Under ESSA:

To move Oregon to a more balanced assessment system, ODE is currently pursuing opportunities to streamline the statewide summative assessments used for systems accountability. At the same time, ODE is continuing to focus on supporting schools and districts in building local capacity around formative and interim assessments to inform instructional practices and provide students, families, and teachers with real-time feedback on how students are progressing.

## School Improvement Under ESSA

In Fall 2017, ODE will run the accountability model to identify schools that may be designated as Comprehensive or Targeted Support schools. ODE staff will work with these schools and districts throughout the 2017-18 school year to conduct a needs assessment and collect and evaluate additional local data to inform next steps. Schools will be formally identified as Comprehensive or Targeted Support schools in Fall 2018.

## District and School Plans

ODE will continue to streamline alignment between federal requirements and school and district planning and reporting guidance, seeking opportunities for flexibility wherever possible.

## ESSA Funding Issues:

- **Assurances and Allocation of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 ESSA Formula Grant Funds**

The United States government and federal agencies are operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) which is set to expire on April 28, 2017. Until Congress acts on the CR, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) cannot provide a FY 2017 budget to states for federal programs. As a result, ODE does not anticipate receiving preliminary allocations until late May 2017.

Once USDE receives a final FY 2017 budget, steps will be taken to ensure that state education agencies, including ODE, receive FY 2017 allocations no later than July 1, 2017. To help ensure timely allocations for the programs included in Oregon's ESSA consolidated State Plan, ODE will submit a set of assurances to USDE and districts will likewise submit assurances to ODE.

Because ODE may not know the outcome of the final federal allocation until after district budgets are submitted and the new school year begins, districts should continue to base their budgets on the estimates that ODE program staff provide for 2017-18.

- **FY 2018 Budget Proposal**

In March 2017, the Trump Administration released an initial budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2018. The proposal includes the elimination of Title IIA (Supporting Effective Instruction) and Title IVB (21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center) programs. It also includes additional resources for Title IA (Improving Basic Programs) which would be dedicated for public school choice, an increase in charter schools funding, and new funds for a private school choice program. This is not the final budget and proposed allocations may change as the administration and Congress continue budget discussions before a final proposal is submitted and approved.