

An Overview: The Every Student Succeeds Act

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law on December 10, 2015, reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to create a long-term, stable federal policy that gives states additional flexibility and encourages innovation, while holding states accountable for results. ESSA replaces the previous law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

What is ESSA?

- **ESSA brings new responsibilities for states in K-12 education policy.** States have greater flexibility and authority in decision-making around accountability, funding, school improvement, grant-making systems, and other key policy areas.
- ESSA provides an opportunity for states to further engage stakeholder groups — including parents, educators and community members — in the planning and implementation process.
- Oregon is committed to developing a plan that addresses the needs of all students and supports additional flexibility in four key areas: Standards & Assessment, Accountability, School Improvement, and Educator Effectiveness.

KEY CHANGES UNDER ESSA

- **Standards**
 - Requires that state standards are aligned with college and career skills, but defers to states on how to define such alignment
- **Assessments**
 - Annual assessments remain, but may be a single summative assessment or a series of interim assessments that result in a single summative score
 - Opportunity for states to audit testing systems
- **Innovative Assessment Pilot**
 - States may apply to participate in a pilot program to redesign state assessments
- **Accountability**
 - Opportunity to rethink accountability systems to better align with desired student outcomes
- **School Improvements & Supports**
 - States must use evidence-based interventions, but specific school improvement models are no longer required
- **English Language Learners**
 - English Language Learners will now be part of state accountability systems under Title I
- **Federal Funding**
 - Opportunity to realign federal funding streams to better meet state and local needs
- **Teacher and Leader Quality**
 - Opportunity to revise teacher evaluation and licensure systems
 - Opportunities to implement teacher and school leader academies

What is Oregon’s timeline for ESSA planning and implementation?

- **2016-17 School Year:** Programs as authorized under NCLB will remain in effect for the 2016-17 school year. School funding will be allocated under NCLB rules.
- **October 2016:** Oregon will release a draft ESSA plan based on community input.
- **October – January 2016:** Parents, educators, and community members will be able to provide feedback on the draft plan through this webpage: www.ode.state.or.us/go/ESSA
- **February 2017:** State Board of Education meeting to approve ESSA State Plan.
- **March 2017:** Oregon’s State Plan submitted to U.S. Department of Education (USED).
- **Beginning of 2017 School Year:** Oregon will fully implement ESSA for the 2017-18 school year.

ESSA: IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



Who should be involved in the planning process?

- ESSA creates an opportunity for a variety of stakeholders to play an active role in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of ESSA policies and practices.
- Stakeholders include: parents, school leaders, teachers, policymakers, tribes, the English Language Learner community, the disabilities community, communities of color, advocacy organizations, and the business community, among others.
- Across the country, states are hosting listening tours, town halls, webinars, and workgroups and providing online forms to solicit public feedback before drafting state plans. You can read about Oregon’s work underway by visiting www.ode.state.or.us/go/ESSA.
- Stakeholders should remain an integral part of the planning and implementation process of ESSA, as well as other education policies.