What is ESSA?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOUR 2016

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT OF 2015 – REPLACES NCLB

OVERVIEW

- ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind
- States must submit plans for implementing ESSA by Spring of 2017.
- Provides greater flexibility and decision-making to States.

OVERVIEW cont.

- ESSA 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.

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 assessment** to be used; states may use national assessments such as ACT for high school testing.

ESSA Student Achievement Measures

- 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.

ESSA 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.

ESSA Reporting of School and District Accountability Report

- Must contain at least four measures including **achievement**, **graduation rate (for high schools)**, **progress of English Learners** toward proficiency, **growth**, or another statewide academic indicator for k-8 schools, and at least one other state measure which must be an indicator of **school quality** or **student success.**

ESSA Reporting of School and District Accountability Report

- Reporting must break out data **by student groups**.

- Reporting 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)

ESSA Reporting of School and District Accountability Report

- 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%.**

School Improvement under ESSA

- 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**.
- **Special Education**
- Includes **preschool development** grant programs to ensure access to quality early childhood programs.
- **Early childhood programs** are eligible for literacy funding.

Other features of ESSA

- 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.

The Alabama '*Every Student Succeeds Act*' Implementation Committee is interested in your ideas and comments.
The ESSA Implementation Committee is accepting comments at https://form.jotform.com/61555715735158 until October 30.

You can also email ALSDE at essawg@alsde.edu for the duration of ESSA.

For more information about Alabama's work toward a customized plan for public education, visit the Alabama State Department of Education's ESSA website: http://www.alsde.edu/dept/essa/Pages/home.aspx.

Alabama's

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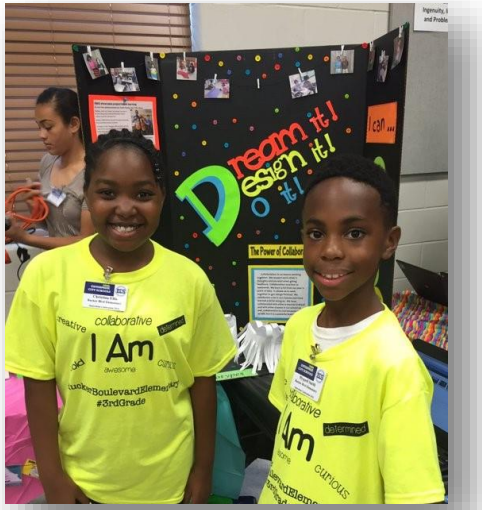
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