

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)
REAUTHORIZATION FRAMEWORK SUMMARY
~HIGHLIGHTS OF EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT~

This summary is subject to revisions and clarifications as new information becomes available.

TITLE I

Standards and Assessments

- States choose academic standards in Reading and Math aligned to higher education and career and technical institutions.
- Maintains current assessment requirements: Math and Reading/English Language Arts in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school; science once in elementary, middle, and high school.
- If approved by the state, high schools may use a nationally-recognized assessment, in place of state assessment; assessments must be aligned to the state standards; states will develop the technical criteria and process for approval of assessments.
- Maintains 1% cap for alternative assessments for students with severe cognitive disabilities.
- Requires 95% test participation by all students and subgroups. Allows states to create their own testing opt-out laws.

Accountability

- Replaces Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) with a State-defined index system. States set long term and interim goals for: academic achievement on state tests, graduation rates, and English language proficiency for English learners (EL).
- Indicators must include:
 - (1) Academic Indicators: State tests; Student growth or other statewide academic indicator; Graduation rates for high schools; and English language proficiency.
 - (2) Measure of School Quality and Student Success: At least one indicator, determined by the state, e.g. student engagement, access to advanced coursework, school climate, others.
- Academic indicators must be weighted “much more” than other non-academic indicators.

- States determine how the 95% test participation on state assessments is to be factored into the accountability system.
- States must “meaningfully differentiate” schools based on these indicators.
- Moves accountability for English language proficiency for English learners from Title III to Title I.

School and District Improvement

- At least once every 3 years, states must identify and intervene in bottom 5% of lowest performing schools, high schools where grad rate <67%, and schools with underperforming subgroups.
- District develops **Comprehensive Support and Improvement plan**, approved and monitored by state.
- State sets exit criteria and determines action for schools that fail to reach criteria over specified time period.
- States must annually notify LEAs when one or more subgroups are consistently underperforming. Schools implement **Targeted Support and Improvement plans**, approved and monitored by LEA.

SIG and Direct Student Services

- School Improvement Grants (SIG) are eliminated but current 4% set-aside for school improvement is increased to 7% (95% to LEAs) to fund evidence-based activities, with no specific models or interventions.
- States may reserve up to 3% for **direct student services** such as credit recovery, Advanced Placement (AP), tutoring, and transportation to allow a student to transfer to another public school.

Report Cards

- Current structure of State and local report cards remain. Includes a description of the state accountability system, schools identified for improvement, student

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performance disaggregated by subgroups including homeless, foster and military-connected students; professional qualifications of teachers; and other data.

Flexibility for Equitable Per-Pupil Funding

- Up to 50 LEAs may enter into demonstration agreements with USED to consolidate federal, state, and local education funding for the purpose of allocating significant funds to school level and more funding for English learners and students from low-income families.

TITLE II

- Ends federal mandates on teacher evaluations (*note: state legislation, SB 290, remains in effect*) and Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirements. ESSA requires that teachers meet state licensure and certification requirements.
- Changes state grant formula based on poverty of student populations.
- States may reserve 3% of LEA subgrant funds for principal and other school leader support grants.
- Authorizes grants funded directly through USED, including: Teacher and School Leader Incentive Fund, Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN), American History and Civics Education, Programs of National Significance.

TITLE IV

- Authorizes a new block grant for **Student Supports and Academic Enrichment Grants**:
 - (1) Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities (e.g. AP and IB tests fee reimbursement, STEM, music and arts, computer science, others);
 - (2) Safe and Healthy Schools; and
 - (3) Effective Use of Technology
- Authorizes **21st Century Community Learning Centers** as a stand-alone program.

- Maintains **Charter Schools** as a stand-alone program with increased accountability.
- Authorizes **Statewide Family Engagement Centers** program.
- Authorizes grants funded directly through USED for National Activities including: Education Innovation and Research, Community Support for School Success, School Safety, Academic Enrichment.

Other Provisions – Reauthorizes English Language Learners, Migrant, and Neglected/Delinquent programs; Magnet schools; Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education; Impact Aid; and Homeless Education of the McKinney-Vento Act.

Preschool Development Grants – Competitive grant funded through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and jointly administered by USED to improve early education.

Timelines:

- ESEA waiver will expire on August 1, 2016.
 - States continue supporting “priority” and “focus” Schools in 2016-17.
- New accountability requirements begin in 2017-18.
- Current formula grants will be administered under NCLB rules in 2016-17 (except HQT).
- New funding for formula grants will begin July 1, 2017.
- Competitive programs (at federal level) effective 10/1/2016.
- USED conducting rulemaking process Jan-Mar 2016; drafting rules Apr-June 2016; anticipated date of final rules released Oct 2016.

Authorization Period - FY2017 through FY2020, with specific funding levels authorized for each fiscal year.

This document is updated as new information becomes available. Some things may be pending state legislation if contrary to state law.