





The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): A Briefing for Delaware

Ben Schaefer State-Federal Relations Division National Conference of State Legislatures

The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

- Last reauthorized as No Child Left Behind in 2002
- Problems with NCLB from a state perspective
 - Shifted a great deal of control to the federal government
 - Mandated 100% proficiency by 2014, contained AYP requirement, defined "highly qualified teachers"
 - States needed waivers to get out from under NCLB requirements
 - Race to the Top grants, waivers tied funding to use of common standards and assessments, federally mandated policies

The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

- House and Senate passed reauthorization bills this summer
- Conference committee adopted conference report 11/19 with only one dissenting vote
- House passage 12/2, 359-64
- Senate passage 12/9, 85-12
- Signed into law 12/10 as P.L. 114-95



Meet ESSA, the Every Student Succeeds Act

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

"...the largest devolution of federal control to the states in a quarter century."

So...what's in the bill for states?

- Provision for state legislative involvement
- Prohibitions on Secretarial/federal authority
- New approach for accountability
 - No more AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress)!

Implementation Timeline

- ESEA flexibility waivers end as of 8/1/2016
- New state plans are developed in the 2016-2017 school year
- Full implementation in the 2017-2018 school year
- Continuing regulation and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education
 - You can ask the Department a question about ESSA at essa.questions@ed.gov
- Funding note: competitive funding for FY 2016 will flow under current law; FY 2017 dollars (2017-2018 school year) will flow through ESSA provisions

State Accountability Systems

- Required indicators
 - Academic achievement as measured by proficiency on annual assessments
 - Another measure of academic achievement
 - Progress of English Language Learners
 - A measure of school quality and student success
 - For high schools, graduation rates
- States must weigh the academic measures more heavily than the other indicators and will also need to incorporate test participation in their accountability system.

Assessments- new role, some flexibility

NCLB Assessment Schedule Remains

Math & Language Arts/Reading Annually in grades 3-8 Once in grades 9-12

Science

At least once in each grade span: 3-5, 6-9, 10-12

- 95% participation and 1% cap on alternative assessments
- Test are less "high stakes"
- Statement of parental right to opt out
- New flexibility in assessment design
 - Use of nationally recognized high school assessment
 - Innovative assessment flexibility

Which schools require intervention?

- Schools that are in the bottom five percent
- Any high school failing to graduate 1/3 or more of their students
- Any school in which a subgroup of students is consistently underperforming

Provisions Regarding Subgroups of Students

- States must continue to disaggregate data by student subgroup at the state, LEA, and school levels.
- State accountability systems must identify any school in which a subgroup of students is consistently underperforming for target support and improvement. Those subgroups are:
 - Economically disadvantaged students
 - Students from major racial and ethnic groups
 - Children with disabilities
 - English learners

Tools for School and Student Support

- New Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants
- Increased amount of Title I funding to be used for school improvement (instead of the NCLB School Improvement Grants)
 - Set aside for school improvement is the greater of 7% of Title I grants to LEAs or the amount of SIG funding for FY 2016 plus 4% of Title I grants.
 - School improvement funds can be sent to LEAs by formula or through a competitive process.

New Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants

Purposes

- Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
- Improve school conditions for student learning; and
- Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students

Delaware

- Estimated to receive \$8,003,000 in FY 2017 (source: FFIS)
- Amounts to 0.5 percent of total available SSAE funding

Other Title I Issues

- Portability...not in the bill, but there's a weighted student funding pilot that could allow some districts to experiment
- No formula change, but will study
- Accountability provisions for English Language Learners moved to Title I (previously in Title III)

Title II Changes

- Formula for Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction) grants amended
 - Gradual shift from 65% based on share of children in poverty and 35% based on share of children overall
 - To 80% based on share of children in poverty and 20% on share of children overall by FY 2020
- Gradually eliminates hold harmless allotment (by FY 2023)
- Delaware
 - Estimated impact of formula, hold harmless change from FY 2017 to FY 2023
 - Increase of 4.3%
 - From \$10,833,000 in FY 2015 (actual) to \$11,303,000 in FY 2023 (estimated)

Other Programs in ESSA

- Education of Migrant Children
- Education of Neglected, Homeless, or Delinquent Youth
- Language instruction for English Language Learners and Immigrant Students
- Impact Aid
- Rural Education

Other Programs in ESSA (continued)

- Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education programs
- McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- 21st Century Schools/Promise Neighborhoods/Community Learning Centers
- Magnet Schools
- Charter Schools

Early Education Provisions

- Preschool development grants
- Pre-K information in Title I plans
- Titles I-IV: dollars can be used on pre-K programs
 - Title I: LEAs can use funding to provide pre-K programs in their communities
 - Title II: Under "state activities," money can be used for training of directors and providers
 - Title III: Can use funds to provide English language instruction to pre-K students
 - Title IV: Funds for establishing/expanding/replicating high-quality charter schools can be used for pre-K programs

Preschool Development Grants

FUNDING

\$250,000,000

- Competitive
- For a year; can be renewed
- Grants can be used for needs assessments
- Renewal grants can help fund access

- Allow states to develop, update or implement a plan to facilitate collaboration and coordination among existing early childhood care and education programs
- Encourages partnerships
- Maximizes parental choice

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Ben Schaefer Policy Specialist 202-624-8667 ben.schaefer@ncsl.org

