

2016 AASA, NJASA, FEA Women's Leadership Conference

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How did a new ESEA happen?

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 1965
- No Child Left Behind (NCLB) 2001
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015
- NCLB reauth started in Aug 2007 and lasted just over 8 years.
- The 114th Congress-2016 was a year of action!
- ESSA:
 - Passed the House 359-64; Passed the Senate 85-12
 - Bill signed into law December 10, 2015

What do I need to remember?

- ESSA is a significant improvement over current law.
- Maintains federal role, but emphasizes role is to support/strengthen, not dictate/prescribe to, schools
- Returns pendulum of federal overreach and prescription back to state/local control

What's in the bill?

- Standards: Requires “challenging” ELA and Math standards aligned to credit-bearing, remediation-free coursework in state university system.
 - Requires at least three performance levels for measuring standards.
- Assessments: Maintains annual assessments in Math and ELA, and grade-span testing in science
 - State Assessment Pilot will support selected states in creating/utilizing their own or regionally designed assessment
 - Local high schools can, with permission from their state, use a local assessment in place of the state assessment, and this could include SAT or ACT
 - 1% assessment for SWD - new flexibility, no local cap
 - EL assessment- EL proficiency now part of the accountability system. Exemptions for recently arrived Els.

Accountability Framework

- Accountability: Maintains data disaggregation and graduation rate calculation
 - Outside of broad federal guardrails, significantly whittles back federal overreach and prescription. Mandates ID and intervention in bottom 5% and high schools graduating less than 67%
 - States must establish sub-group performance targets, but there is NOT consequence for intervention based on these target
- 95% participation mandate maintained. Student test participation must also be incorporated into the state's accountability plan
- 5 components to accountability workbook: student proficiency on annual assessments, student growth, graduation rates, ELL proficiency rates and non-academic indicator
- Weight of each of the 5 indicators is up to the state's discretion. 1 caveat: non-academic measure is less than academic measures combined.

Title changes and formula re-writes

- Title I, Other
 - Portability is OUT; weighted funding pilot is IN
 - No Title I Formula rewrite
- Rural Education: REAP, USED Study
- Titles II and Title IV are block grants
 - Option to allocate resources toward well-rounded programs, school safety/climate, and ed-tech
 - States can reserve up to 3% of Title II funds to direct LEAs to support principals and other schools leaders. LEAs can use these funds to design and modify principal evaluation and feedback systems, establishing school leader preparation and residency academies, and to modify state certification and licensing systems to ensure school leaders help students meet challenging state academic standards.

Timeline & Implementation

- Signed into law (Dec 2015); regulations in 2016
- Current waivers would expire July 31, 2016
- New provisions go into effect for 2017-18 school year
- 2016-17 school year could be 'soft launch' of new elements
- FY16 competitive funding will flow through current law construct; FY17 dollars will flow through ESSA construct (in schools for 17-18 school year)
- Negotiated rulemaking (assessment, supp/supp) begins March 21st.

Questions? Comments?

- AASA Policy Blog: www.aasa.org/AASABlog.aspx
- AASA Advocacy on Twitter
- Weekly & Monthly Updates

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