

Every Student Succeeds Act **in Iowa**

Overview: Second Draft of Iowa's Plan

Iowa's Every Student Succeeds Act draft plan serves as the foundation for the state's system of accountability and support for students, educators and schools. The plan builds on Iowa's collaborative education reform efforts to ensure all students are prepared for success in high school and beyond.

Accountability

Under ESSA, states must identify public schools that need improvement. Iowa's federal accountability system will identify schools as Targeted, Comprehensive or Not Identified based on the following indicators:

- Student Participation
- Academic Achievement
- Student Growth
- Graduation Rate
- Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency
- Conditions for Learning
- Postsecondary Readiness

Long-Term Goals

States must set long-term goals for proficiency in reading and math, graduation rates, and English Language Proficiency. Iowa's goals are based on the Iowa Assessments, which students will take for the last time in the 2017-18 school year. **Proficiency goals will change after Iowa chooses a new state assessment** for 2018-19 as directed by the Legislature. Current goals are:

Reading/math proficiency rates: Increase for all students by half a percentage point each year over five years and for student subgroups by one percentage point each year over five years.

Graduation rate: 95 percent for all students and 97 percent for students who take an additional year to graduate.

English language proficiency: Five-point increase in the percentage of English learners who are proficient within five years.

Supporting All Students

Iowa supports student achievement with clear and rigorous expectations, or standards, that educators help all students reach through high-quality instruction and evidence-based practices.

Iowa's academic standards

include required standards for students in state-funded preschools and child-care settings (Early Learning Standards), students in kindergarten through 12th grade (Iowa Core), and students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (Essential Elements). Iowa is on track to develop voluntary standards in fine arts and computer science education.

Iowa also will provide support to schools for **teaching at-risk student populations**, including:

- English Learners
- Foster Care Students
- Homeless Students
- Migratory Students
- Military-Connected Students
- Neglected & Delinquent Students



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Supporting **Educators**

To support educators, Iowa is leveraging statewide efforts under way.

Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation System (TLC) aims to transform learning in schools by tapping the expertise of top teachers to strengthen the teaching around them and make an impact on more students. TLC created a framework within all school districts to recruit, retain, support and promote excellence for all educators and leaders. TLC also serves as a structure for professional learning in schools.

Professional learning will emphasize effective implementation of a **Multi-Tiered System of Supports**, including use of assessment results to make instructional decisions, as well as evidence-based practices in instruction and intervention.

Iowa's early literacy initiative helps teachers identify students in kindergarten through third grade who are not on track in reading, provide additional reading instruction, and monitor their progress.

Supporting **Schools**

Iowa has redesigned its school accountability system to provide support to public school districts, state-accredited nonpublic schools and area education agencies where and when they need it most.

The accountability system has three parts:

Universal Desk Audit: All school districts, preschool programs, state-accredited nonpublic schools and AEAs must submit audit information regarding compliance with state and federal requirements.

Identification of Schools: This occurs every three years using ESSA's required measures, as well as annually through the state's Healthy Indicator measures, which include the percentage of students meeting benchmarks on early literacy screening assessments.

Supports for Schools: All schools will have access to common tools, technical assistance, and a unified action plan aligned to state and federal law.

About the Every Student Succeeds Act:

ESSA is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This update replaces the No Child Left Behind Act and will be fully implemented in the 2017-18 school year. ESSA maintains a focus on transparency and accountability while returning more authority to states and local school districts to set goals and create systems of support that will improve student learning. Under ESSA, Iowa and other states must develop state plans that address assessments, school and district accountability, funding, and support for struggling schools.

