

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

WHAT IS THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT?

The federal **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** was signed into law December 10, 2015, reauthorizing the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and revising many provisions of what was known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The ESEA is the national education law that has a longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

1965

HISTORY OF ESSA

2002

2015

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is authorized to create specific, targeted programs for the poor through Title I.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is created, requiring that schools measure student achievement in uniform ways that intervene in instances of failure to close achievement gaps between disadvantaged students and their peers.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is authorized, maintaining some reporting and measurement requirements of NCLB, but providing states greater discretion in the design of school improvement systems.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

- ✓ Adoption of statewide standards in core academic subjects aligned with entrance requirements for college and universities and relevant career and technical education standards
- ✓ Assessment of all students in the same grades and subjects as required under NCLB
- ✓ Reporting on specific metrics, including student and subgroup (race, economic status, etc.) results, at the school and school system level to address student equity gaps
- ✓ A singular rating system for all schools, including identification and improvement plans for schools in need of support and advancement
- ✓ Authorization of federal education funding and competitive grant opportunities

WHAT IS NOT REQUIRED

- ✗ The use of specific standards, curricula, or assessments
- ✗ Specific interventions, evaluation, and support structures for educators, schools, and school systems
- ✗ Specific, national annual progress goals used to evaluate schools, school systems, and states

LOUISIANA'S PLAN

Louisiana believes that all students can achieve high expectations regardless of their background, family income, or zip code. Louisiana is raising expectations to ensure each and every student graduates from high school on time, with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and professional careers. In the past five years, Louisiana's students are demonstrating that they are just as capable as any in America.



Louisiana fourth-grade students achieved the HIGHEST GROWTH AMONG ALL STATES on the 2015 NAEP reading test and the second highest growth in math. In 2013, Louisiana's low-income fourth-grade readers trailed low-income students nationwide in reading at proficient levels by five percent. As of 2015, there is no gap.



Louisiana's 2015 high school GRADUATION RATE WAS AN ALL-TIME HIGH of 77.5 percent. African American students led the state in 2015, increasing graduation levels by 3.5 percent.



The Louisiana class of 2015 SHOWED GREATER IMPROVEMENT on the ACT than did any senior class in states using the ACT as their state test. Since 2012, the number of African American students achieving a college-going ACT score has increased by 40 percent.



Louisiana's class of 2015 Advanced Placement® results showed GREATER ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT than any state other than Massachusetts. The number of African American students earning credits since 2012 has increased by 160 percent.

In spite of great progress, challenges to achieving prosperous adult lives still persist for many Louisiana students. These challenges can and will be met through opportunities within ESSA, Louisiana's accountability system, and state policies.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOUISIANA'S ESSA PLAN?

The Louisiana Department of Education is seeking specific input from educators as it develops the state's long-term education plan and determines how best to pursue opportunities through ESSA. Pending approval by the U.S. Department of Education, implementation of the plan will begin with the 2017-2018 school year.

A thorough review of recent student progress, as well as continued challenges and opportunities, will guide the formation of Louisiana's plan. Input is needed from school leaders, educators, policymakers, parents, business and community groups, and advocacy organizations, specifically in the areas of school accountability, equal student access, strategies to improve low-performing schools, and supporting excellent educators.

Below is a schedule of open, public ESSA meetings being held by Superintendent White around the state this summer. All members of the public are encouraged to attend.

<p>TUE, JUL 26</p> <p>Lafayette Middle School 1301 W. University Ave. • Lafayette, LA 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.</p> <hr/> <p>Lake Charles Boston Academy of Learning 1509 Enterprise Blvd. • Lake Charles, LA 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.</p>	<p>WED, JUL 27</p> <p>Pineville High School Auditorium 1511 Line St. • Pineville, LA 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.</p> <hr/> <p>Wanda Gunn Professional Development Auditorium 1961 Midway Ave. • Shreveport, LA 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.</p>	<p>THU, JUL 28</p> <p>City of Monroe School Board 2006 Tower Dr. • Monroe, LA 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.</p>
<p>FRI, JUL 29</p> <p>McKinley Middle Magnet School Auditorium 1550 Eddie Robinson Sr. Dr. • Baton Rouge, LA 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.</p>	<p>MON, AUG 1</p> <p>Terrebonne Parish School Board 201 Stadium Dr. • Houma, LA 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.</p>	<p>TUE, AUG 2</p> <p>Fontainebleau High School 100 Bulldog Dr. • Mandeville, LA 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.</p> <hr/> <p>Woodson/KIPP Central City Academy 2514 Third St. • New Orleans, LA 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.</p>

VISIT LOUISIANA'S ESSA WEBSITE for up-to-date information on all upcoming meetings, feedback opportunities, and resources at www.louisianabelieves.com/ESSA, or email your ideas and feedback to the Department at essalouisiana@la.gov.