

Every Student Succeeds Act: An Overview

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ESSA Warm Up

- 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's in the Bill?

- 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: States must have high 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 (much like what NH has done)
 - 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
- 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 targets
 - Academic (non academic) factors
- Collective impact of reducing high-stakes testing environment

What's in the bill?

- Title I, Other
 - Portability is OUT; weighted funding pilot is IN
 - No Title I Formula rewrite, but there is a Congressional Study
- Rural Education: REAP, USED Study, and consolidated grants
- Titles II (Professional Development) and Title IV (school climate) are block grants
 - Title II formula rewrite, toward deeper concentration of poverty
- Alternate Assessments

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
- Negotiated Rulemaking will take place in Mar/April, related to assessments (comp adap, alt assmt, ELL assm, and 8th grade math) as well as supplement/supplant
- Other regulations expected (Title II, Title III, Title IV, etc...)

FY17 Budget Talking Points

- Title I: Fund at level to meet state set aside and preserve LEA allocations
 - level funded (consolidates \$450 m from SIG into Title I)
 - Coupled with change in hold harmless, results in CUT of \$200m in LEA allocations
- IDEA: Level funding of IDEA puts the federal share at 16%, below the 2005 level, when federal share was 18%
- Title IV: Fund Title IV at a level that supports local formula allocation
 - Funds Title IV at \$500 m (increase from \$353, but well below authorized \$1.6 b)
 - Comes with rider language to make the program competitive, and allow states to establish priorities

Questions? Comments?

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

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