



NCLB to ESSA Transition Update

Last December, the President signed into law the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The title of the reauthorized legislation, which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act, is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The passage of ESSA provides a much anticipated opportunity to improve outcomes for all students. In order to provide you with the best possible guidance and technical assistance, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is currently reviewing the 1,200 pages of legislation and consulting with legal counsel to determine the impact of the law on both State and local programs. Although we have developed a better understanding of the contents of the law, there are still many unanswered questions regarding requirements, implementation, and timelines. Some of what we have learned to date is as follows:

ESSA Implementation timeline and what we know right now

- ESEA programs as authorized under NCLB will remain in effect for the 2016-2017 school year
- 2016-2017 funding will be allocated under NCLB rules
- The provisions of ESSA take effect for the 2017-2018 school year.
- USDE is currently soliciting public comment on the regulatory process. Completed regulations are expected by October of 2016. Updates from USDE are posted at <http://www.ed.gov/esea?src=feature>.

State Plan

CDE must develop and submit its ESSA state plan to the United States Department of Education (USDE). Due to conflicting language in the law, the due date for this plan is unclear. In developing its plan, CDE must consult with a broad array of education stakeholders, including the governor's office. Over the next several months, CDE will provide multiple avenues for stakeholder input and communicate those opportunities through Scoop announcements, newsletters, email, and postings on the CDE website. CDE's goal is to review the plan with the State Board of Education at its May, 2016 meeting and receive approval from the Board to submit the plan to the USDE in June.

Accountability

Priority and Focus Schools Lists

Pursuant to the December 18, 2015 [Dear Colleague Letter](#) regarding the transition to ESSA, Colorado notified ED of its decision to maintain the list of priority and focus schools in effect on December 10, 2015, based on Colorado's flexibility renewal application, as approved by ED on November 18, 2015. Colorado has applied the changes authorized by the renewal approval to its lists of priority and focus schools. These schools will continue to implement their approved interventions through the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. Colorado will not exit schools from current lists until after the 2016-2017 school year.

Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs)

Given the transition to a new content assessment, the USED is not requiring states to hold LEAs to meeting Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Colorado will be required to publish and



make public results of the ACCESS for ELLs assessment by district, including number of students at each proficiency level, as well as students attaining proficiency based on the ELP assessment cut-point established by Colorado.

As part of the state plan mentioned above, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to include indicators and targets for English learners (ELs) developing English, as well as attaining English proficiency.

Highly Qualified Teachers

Recent communications from the USDOE have clarified that section 1119 of NCLB, which requires all teachers of core academic subjects in the State to be “highly qualified”, is among the provisions of the ESEA, as reauthorized by NCLB, that States are **not** required to implement in the 2016-17 school year in order to facilitate an orderly transition to the ESSA. Go to this link for additional information: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/hqtessatransition>

Consolidated Application

The Consolidated Application will be due on June 30, 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year. The application will focus on content and requirements that remained the same from NCLB to ESSA. In preparation for new requirements, CDE will provide documents and guidance as well as seek stakeholder input to develop next year’s application in advance of the 2017-2018 funding year.

Resources

As noted above, we are working diligently to clarify requirements and timelines in order to provide you with timely and useful information regarding ESSA.

For additional ESSA updates and resources, please visit:

CDE’s ESSA webpage at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa>

CDE’s ESSA Blog at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ESSABlog>

USDE’s ESSA website at <http://www.ed.gov/eSEA>

Read the Law: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf>

CDE has also established an email for Colorado educators to submit ESSA questions, comments and concerns - ESSAquestions@cde.state.co.us.

Where can I learn more?

- Bulleted list of additional resources
- Bulleted list of additional resources
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs

