



ESSA Standards Spoke Committee Informational Webinar Q & A

Q: How do I participate in the ESSA Standards Spoke Committee?

A: You can submit your information to participate in the ESSA Standards Spoke Committee here: <https://goo.gl/forms/GODYhDhHvivFQkQt2>.

Q: What is the vision of the State Board of Education?

A: The State Board of Education has addressed ESSA and Colorado's state plan at a number of recent board meetings. Recordings of state board meetings can be found at https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeboard/meeting_agendas_and_audio.

Q: How do I participate in other ESSA Spoke Committees?

A: Other spoke committees include Assessment, Accountability, Effective Instruction and Leadership, School Improvement, Title Program Plans/Assurances, and Stakeholder Consultation/Program Coordination. Different committees may have different processes for signing up, different deadlines, and different ways of coordinating committee work. To share your interest, contact the spoke committee directly. The list of committees can be found at http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa_stateplandevlopment.

Q: Can I participate on more than one committee?

A: Yes.

Q: How do we give feedback to or join the Title and Accountability/Assessment spoke committees? I believe it should be more inclusive than the past, since historically that is how funding is often allotted and there have been inequalities in funding for anything outside of what is state tested. This would be an attempt to move from what is tested is what is funded, and as a result it is also what is taught and valued in schools.

A: The best way to share your interest would be to contact the spoke committee directly. This list can be found at http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa_stateplandevlopment.

On August 18, 2016, the Office of Standards and Instructional Support hosted an informational webinar about the Standards Spoke Committee for Colorado's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan.

This document contains the answers to questions that were asked during the webinar.

The presentation and a link to the recorded webinar can be found at:
http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa_stateplandevlopment_standards



Q: Will we be or shouldn't we align our 2009 minimum for 10 standards as the state law core subjects? It is extremely important that we include our 10 core standards. If we do not place all subjects into the standards section, this leaves it easy to narrow offerings in the future for students and misaligned to the "well-rounded" expectation in section 6? I'm very concerned – if we aren't placing the 10 core subjects and the 21st century skills in the standards section, how do we have a voice in the "well-rounded" section to ensure comprehensive opportunities are not lost? The values of Colorado must be reflected in this plan, which includes all ten core standards.

A: This is a question that the ESSA Standards Spoke Committee will likely consider as part of the ESSA state plan. To have input in this process, please join the Standards Spoke Committee.

Q: Is it the role of the committee to draft the plan or just review a plan created by CDE?

A: In the initial stages, committee members will have an opportunity to directly shape the outline and the initial draft of the standards section of the ESSA state plan. As the draft gets revised and refined, the committee will focus more on reviewing these revisions and providing feedback.

Q: Will committee meetings be held in person or online?

A: All meetings and coordination of work will be done online.

Q: Is there a limit to the size of the committee?

A: There is not a limit to the size of the committee, and we are interested in working with all who sign up.

Q: What feedback has CDE already collected regarding the ESSA State Plan?

A: CDE conducted a listening tour with eight meetings around the state. All the listening tour feedback is available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa>. In general, feedback from the listening tour addressed a broad and diverse set of educational concerns, but relatively little feedback suggested changes to be considered for Colorado's ESSA state plan.

Q: ESSA requires standards in fewer content areas than we currently have in Colorado. How does this affect Colorado's standards? Might we drop standards for some subjects?

A: Colorado has long had standards for more content areas than are required at the federal level. Colorado state statute requires standards in ten subject areas, and the ESSA state plan does not change this. Adding or dropping standards for subjects would require new legislation, so concerns about the content areas that have standards are best directed at your state representative.

Q: Will the ESSA state plan change the content of the Colorado Academic Standards? Is this the work of the ESSA Standards Spoke Committee?

A: No. State statute requires the State Board of Education to review and approve the content of the Colorado Academic Standards on a six-year cycle. July 1, 2018 is the deadline for the next standards revision cycle. CDE will announce plans for organizing standards review and revision committees in the late fall of 2016.