

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

What is ESSA?

The Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, is a federal law signed by President Obama in 2015 that provides rules, regulations, and requirements for primary and secondary education in the United States. This includes how the U.S. Department of Education provides federal funding to states. The law replaces the previous education law, the No Child Left Behind Act.¹

There are 9 sections, or “titles,” in ESSA and each title focuses on a certain part of the education system or a specific student population:^{2,3}

- **Title 1** seeks to create greater equity in education and improve schools by providing funding specifically for *schools with high proportions of students from low-income families*.
- **Title 2** provides funding to prepare, train, and recruit *high-quality school staff*.
- **Title 3** sets regulations for teaching *English language learners and immigrant students*.
- **Title 4** aims to foster a *well-rounded education* through grants that focus on student health, safety, and access to technology. After-school programs are also included.
- **Title 5** describes the rules for *transferring funding* between titles, and includes specific funding for *rural education*.
- **Title 6** establishes funding opportunities and grants that support *Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native education*.
- **Title 7** explains additional funding opportunities for school districts in which more than 70% of the land is owned by the federal government, and therefore ineligible for local taxes that would go to the local school district.
- **Title 8** explains the *general provisions*, or rules, for states to receive federal funding under ESSA.
- **Title 9** supports activities and services that seek to improve the education and success of *students experiencing homelessness*.

Under ESSA, each state must create and implement its own plan that meets all of ESSA’s standards and regulations. ESSA is to be fully implemented in every state by the 2018 - 2019 school year.

¹ U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Retrieved from: <https://www.ed.gov/esea>

² U.S. Government Publishing Office. (2015). S.1177 - Every Student Succeeds Act. *114th Congress Public Law 95*. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ95/PLAW-114publ95.pdf>

³ Healthy Schools Campaign and Alliance for a Healthier Generation. (2017). State ESSA Plans for Support Health and Wellness: A Framework for Action. Retrieved from: <https://healthyschoolscampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ESSA-State-Framework.pdf>