

NEW YORK STATE'S ESSA PLAN

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. Under ESSA, each state must create and implement its own plan that meets all of ESSA's standards and regulations.

ESSA In New York State

New York's ESSA Plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in September 2017. The standards set in the state's ESSA plan started to be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year and will be fully implemented in 2020-2021 school year.

New York's ESSA plan establishes 6 planning areas. The New York State Department of Education has provided a table, summarized below, that describes each planning area under ESSA:¹

Planning Area	Highlighted Changes under ESSA
Challenging Academic Standards and Aligned Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New learning standards for language arts, math, and science. • Language arts and math testing in grades 3-8 is reduced to 2 days each.
School Accountability Methodologies and Measurements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New indicators to measure student success and school quality such as 1) chronic absenteeism, 2) English language proficiency of English language learners, and 3) college, career, and civic readiness. • Greater access and reporting of data, including school indicators. • Task force created to examine indicators of school quality.
Supports and Improvement for Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater support and student/parent participation of resources for low-performing schools. • Incentives to promote diversity, cultural responsiveness, and equity. • Only teachers rated "highly effective" or "effective" can transfer to low-performing schools (unless prohibited by law).
Supporting Excellent Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New strategies to use money that supports professional development. • Greater attention to and examination of access to good teachers, especially between high-performing and low-performing schools.
Supporting English Language Learners/Multilingual Learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New method to determine the progress of English language learners and to hold school accountable of progress.
Supporting All Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of a school climate survey. • The use of technology to personalized learning for students. • Improving access to programs for students with high-needs, such as those who

¹ New York State Department of Education. (2018). New York State's Final Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan Summary. Retrieved from: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/documents/Attachment2ESEAPublicFacing053018-2.pdf>



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are homeless, in foster care, or have mental/physical health conditions.