

ABC



$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

# The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): A Briefing for North Carolina

---

Lee Posey  
State-Federal Relations Division  
National Conference of State Legislatures

# The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

---

- Last reauthorized as No Child Left Behind in 2002
- Problems with NCLB from a state perspective
  - Shifted a great deal of control to the federal government
  - Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) metric, 100% proficiency, defined “highly qualified teachers”
  - States needed waivers to get out from under NCLB requirements
  - Race to the Top grants, waivers tied funding to use of common standards and assessments, federally mandated policies

# The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

---

- House and Senate passed reauthorization bills this summer
- Conference committee adopted conference report 11/19 with only one dissenting vote
- House passage 12/2, 359-64
- Senate passage 12/9, 85-12
- Signed into law 12/10 as P.L. 114-95



Meet ESSA,  
the Every Student Succeeds Act

---

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

“...the largest devolution of federal control  
to the states in a quarter century.”

## So...what's in the bill for states?

---

- Provision for state legislative involvement
- Prohibitions on Secretarial/federal authority
- New approach for accountability
  - No more AYP!

# Implementation Timeline

---

- ESEA flexibility waivers end as of 8/1/2016
- New state plans are developed in the 2016-2017 school year
- Full implementation in the 2017-2018 school year
- Continuing regulation and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education
- Funding Note: FY 2017 dollars (2017-2018 school year) will flow through ESSA provisions

# State Accountability Systems

---

- Required indicators
  - Academic achievement as measured by proficiency on annual assessments
  - Another measure of academic achievement
  - Progress of English Language Learners
  - A measure of school quality and student success
  - For high schools, graduation rates
- States must weigh the academic measures more heavily than the other indicators and will also need to incorporate test participation in their accountability system.

# Assessments– new role, some flexibility

---

- Continues NCLB schedule of federally required statewide assessments; tests are less “high stakes” in the accountability system
- 95% participation rate; statement of parental right to opt out
- 1% cap on alternative assessments
- States can audit their assessments to look at overtesting
- New flexibility in assessment design
  - Use of nationally recognized high school assessment
  - Innovative assessment flexibility



# Which schools require intervention?

---

- Schools that are in the bottom five percent
- Any high school failing to graduate  $\frac{1}{3}$  or more of their students
- Any school in which a subgroup of students is consistently underperforming

# Provisions Regarding Subgroups of Students

---

- States must continue to disaggregate data by student subgroup at the state, LEA, and school level.
- State accountability systems must identify any school in which a subgroup of students is consistently underperforming for targeted support and improvement. Those subgroups are:
  - Economically disadvantaged students
  - Students from major racial and ethnic groups
  - Children with disabilities
  - English learners

# What kind of support do states have for school and student support?

---

- New Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
- Increased amount of Title 1 funding to be used for school improvement (instead of the NCLB School Improvement Grants)
  - Set aside for school improvement is the greater of 7% of Title I grants to LEAs or the amount of SIG funding for FY 2016 plus 4% of Title I grants.
  - School improvement funds can be sent to LEAs by formula or through a competitive process.

# New Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants

---

- Purposes
  - Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
  - Improve school conditions for student learning; and
  - Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students
- North Carolina
  - Estimated to receive \$46,705,000 in FY 2017 (source: FFIS)

# Other Title I Issues

---

- Portability...not in the bill, but there's a weighted student funding pilot that could allow some districts to experiment
- No formula change, but will study
- Accountability provisions for English Language Learners moved to Title I (previously Title III)

# Title II Changes

---

- Formula for Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction) grants amended
  - Gradual shift from 65% based on share of children in poverty and 35% based on share of children overall
  - 80% based on share in poverty and 20% overall by FY 2020
- Gradually eliminates hold harmless allotment (by FY 2023)
- North Carolina
  - Estimated impact of formula, hold harmless change from FY 2017 to FY 2023
    - Increase of 46.6%
    - From \$49,799,000 in FY 2015 (actual) to \$ 73,026,000 in FY 2023 (estimated)

# Other Programs in ESSA

---

- Education of Migrant Children
- Education of Neglected, Homeless, or Delinquent Youth
- Language instruction for English Language Learners and Immigrant Students
- Impact Aid
- Rural Education

## Other Programs in ESSA (continued)

---

- Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education programs
- McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools/Promise Neighborhoods/Community Learning Centers
- Magnet Schools
- Charter Schools



# Early Education Provisions

---

- Preschool development grants-- \$250 million
- Literacy grants allowable use
- Other uses of funding in Title I through IV funding for early education

# QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Lee Posey  
Federal Affairs Counsel  
202-624-8196  
[lee.posey@ncsl.org](mailto:lee.posey@ncsl.org)

Ben Schaefer  
Policy Specialist  
202-624-8667  
[ben.schaefer@ncsl.org](mailto:ben.schaefer@ncsl.org)

Visit the NCSL website at:

<http://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/standing-committees/education/every-student-succeeds-act-essa-information-and-resources.aspx>

