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Things every parent should know about New York State's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act



What is ESSA?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a federal law that outlines how states can use federal money to support public schools. In September 2017, New York State submitted its plan for the approximately \$1.6 billion New York receives annually under ESSA.

Why does it matter?

New York State is committed to ensuring that all students succeed and thrive in school no matter who they are, where they live, where they go to school, or where they come from. Since fall 2016, New York State has sought feedback to design a plan that advances equity, access, and opportunity for *all* students.

What do parents need to know?

Below are highlights of important elements for parents and families in the plan. We encourage you to visit the [New York State Education Department's ESSA website](#) to learn more about the plan.

1

New York State values a well-rounded education for all.

Parents and families should know how their child's school is performing in many areas, not just academic subjects.

Schools and districts will be measured annually on these indicators:

For all schools

- English language arts
- Math
- Science
- Progress in learning English (for those who don't speak it)
- Chronic absenteeism (absent 18+ days, with exceptions)

For high schools

- Social studies
- Graduation rate
- College, career, and civic readiness index: taking advanced coursework, earning technical education certificates, etc.

Future indicators:

- Out-of-school suspensions (beginning with 2018-19 results)
- Being ready for high school (once data becomes available)
- "Learning environment" indicators (e.g., class size, access to arts classes)

2

New York State wants to reduce testing time and improve the testing experience.



Tests in grades 3-8 English and math will be reduced to two days each in 2018.



The state will try new ways to assess student knowledge that could ask students to complete and present performance tasks.

95%

The federal law requires 95% of students in each tested grade and subgroup to take the appropriate tests. New York State will work with parents, schools, and districts to increase participation.



New York State will continue to translate math and science tests into more languages, and when funding becomes available, will create a language-arts test in students' native language.

3

New York State will help teachers and school leaders be ready for success and ensure that all students have access to an excellent educator.



The state will look at changes in how teachers and leaders are prepared to make sure they are ready on day one.



New York State has many excellent teachers. We will ensure that all schools have the ability to attract and keep them.

4

New York State is counting on parents for additional help when their child’s school is identified for improvement.



If your child’s school is identified as low-performing ...



... then it will have to ask parents, teachers, and students how they think the school can do better ...



... and you will have a say in how your school spends part of the federal money it receives to improve.

5

New York State will provide parents with a more complete picture of their child’s school.



New public reports will show information on student test scores, graduation rates, and other outcomes for schools, districts, and the state, consistent with privacy laws.



The reports also will give information on things parents care deeply about, such as class size or opportunities for students to participate in the arts.



Parents will know how much each school is spending per student through the new reports.



Districts, schools, and the New York State Education Department will use the information in these reports to help districts adjust spending or come up with new ways to meet students’ needs.