

ESSA Notes



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ESSA Puts Heavy Emphasis on Stakeholder Input

First Round of Stakeholder Feedback Open NOW

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) promises to dramatically change federal and state education landscapes. The Michigan Department of Education has the opportunity for additional flexibility under ESSA. But first we must establish our state’s strategic vision and evaluate how the new law will affect our accountability, funding, school improvement, and grant-making systems.

ESSA also requires states to design these new systems with input from dozens of stakeholder groups, ranging from teachers to parents to community organizations. MDE’s internal and external teams are carefully planning Michigan’s approach to ensure that this input is meaningful. We are working with [over 100 stakeholder groups](#) in education, business, and civic circles to gather broad stakeholder input, in order to ensure that MDE staff get the information necessary to design the best systems for our students. Please [contact us](#) if your group would like to participate in this work.

Action Team Early Concepts are Ready for Review

Michigan’s ESSA Action Teams have been meeting since June, discussing the “big ideas” and concepts related to each team’s goals. Team leaders have put forward their teams’ initial key ideas for initial discussion and review. This presents the first opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback that will guide the next round of work moving forward.

Based on the work of each Action Team, the MDE has posted a survey on the [Michigan ESSA website](#). Stakeholders from every sector can review the work to date and contribute feedback through that survey, which will be open through August 16.

The MDE will share the survey through its communications channels and website. We will also send targeted invitations to all external and internal advisory teams, virtual focus group volunteers, and ESSA Notes readers.

[Offer feedback now!](#)

ESSA FACTS

Under ESSA, states will take the lead on issues of accountability, resources, interventions, and teacher evaluation systems as opposed to U.S. Department of Education Leadership

Contact Us: MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov or www.michigan.gov/essa

Featured Resources on Michigan’s ESSA Website

The following are some examples of the helpful resources you will find at www.michigan.gov/essa:

- [Summaries of key provisions of the ESSA from the Council of Chief State School Officers \(CCSSO\)](#)
- [Michigan’s Approach to ESSA](#) (PowerPoint, updated 7/5/16)
- [Michigan’s Comments to USED](#) on the Proposed Regulations on the Accountability, State Plans, and Data Reporting provisions of ESSA
- Action Team Overviews and Updates—Learn more about each of the nine ESSA Action Teams and their work to-date:
 - [Accountability System - Technical](#)
 - [Additional Indicator of School Quality and Transparency Dashboard](#)
 - [Assessment Implementation](#)
 - [Communications and Outreach](#)
 - [Fiscal](#)
 - [Innovative Assessment Pilot](#)
 - [Supports](#)
 - [Teacher and Leader Quality](#)
 - [Using Data to Inform Instruction](#)

Other Resources

The U.S. Department of Education and other independent education organizations offer summaries and overviews of ESSA that might be useful as you seek to help others in your network become aware of ESSA. Here is just a sampling for your review:

- [Every Student Succeeds Act: Everything you need to know about the nation’s new education law](#). (Alliance for Excellent Education) – ESSA information broken into easy-to-understand, topic-specific segments.
- The [USED ESSA Resource Page](#) includes a wealth of information related to ESSA. You will find a growing collection of memos, fact sheets, and recent updates on the federal rule-making process. Recent additions include a “Dear Colleague” memo on stakeholder engagement in ESSA plan development and information about the provisions in ESSA related to supports for homeless youth, youth in foster care, and much more.

What’s Happening Now

- MDE Deputy Superintendent Venessa Keesler will be providing an update on Michigan’s ESSA plan development work to the State Board of Education at its [Tuesday, August 9 State Board Meeting](#).
- Michigan’s ESSA Action Teams have submitted their early concepts for review through an easy-to-access survey. You can access the survey through mid-August at www.michigan.gov/essa. The survey is broken into sections for each Action Team. Respondents have the option of answering questions in every area, or just in specific areas of interest. **The survey will be open through August 16, 2016.**
- Recent Notices of Proposed Rulemaking issued by USED, **comments due September 9, 2016:**
 - [Title I, Part A](#) – Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged – Academic Assessments
 - [Title I, Part B](#) – Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority
- We welcome involvement! If you’d like to subscribe to this newsletter or join a virtual focus group for parents or teachers, visit www.michigan.gov/essa and click on “Get Involved.”
- Questions? Please contact us at MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov anytime!