

# ESSA Notes



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~October 12, 2016~

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## State Board of Education Hears ESSA Update

“In order to support Michigan citizens’ vision for making Michigan a top 10 state in 10 years, we need classrooms that create new types of learning opportunities, educators who are prepared to support students in learning college- and career-ready skills, and assessments that measure whether or not those students are ready for success.”

That’s the message the Michigan State Board of Education heard at its October 11, 2016, meeting regarding proposed revisions to the state assessment system. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Brian Whiston and Deputy Superintendent Venessa Keesler presented information and answered questions about Michigan’s assessment and accountability vision, and the planning taking place as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation.

### Presentation Highlights

- The broad goals of Michigan’s assessment vision is to provide timely, meaningful, useful information for teachers, parents, students, and taxpayers.
- Key components of the system would feature: multiple points of immediate feedback to support individualized instruction, growth and proficiency measures, writing and problem-solving tasks, and less end-of-year assessment.
- Implementation and timeline will be influenced by the readiness of vendors to deliver solutions, and by the final Federal regulations that will guide assessment and accountability.
- Big ideas around Michigan’s accountability system include increased emphasis on growth; fairness, simplicity and transparency; and driving support to the districts most in need.
- A proposed Partnership Model would target attention and support to districts where children experience a significant lack of access to opportunity for academic success.

Continued next page.

## ESSA FACTS . . . . .

Parents of English learners must be notified of the student’s identification for and placement in English learner programs § 1111(e)(3)(A).

Contact Us: [MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov) or [www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa)

## State Board Presentation...cont'd.

“At the end of the day, assessment is about information; and that information needs to be in the hands of the people who need it most,” Keesler said.

- View the [recorded State Board presentation](#)
- View the [presentation materials](#)
- Read the [“Student Testing Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”](#)

Learn more about the ESSA Assessment and Accountability Action Teams:

- [Assessment Implementation](#) and [Innovative Assessment Pilot](#)
- [Accountability System - Technical](#) and [Additional Indicator of School Quality and Transparency Dashboard](#)

## MDE Announces Parent Survey for ESSA Feedback

One key feature of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a requirement to engage a broad range of stakeholders in developing state plans. Parents of children in PreK-12 schools are one population especially targeted for such feedback. While parents are invited to respond to any feedback request, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has now released an ESSA-related survey designed specifically for parents.

The ESSA parent survey is adapted from the broader 2016 Student Inspiration Project Parent/Student survey developed and conducted for MDE annually by YouGov. The adapted survey asks questions specifically related to items relevant to Michigan’s ESSA plan and includes topics such as student assessment, school accountability measures, teacher and leader quality, and supports for struggling schools.

The MDE will be sharing this link with parents who have volunteered for the ESSA Parent Virtual Focus Group. However, any Michigan parent or guardian with a child in grades PreK-12 qualifies to participate.

The [Michigan ESSA Parent Survey](#) will remain available through **November 18, 2016**, at [www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa).

### Please share!

Parent organizations and school leaders are also encouraged to invite parents in their networks to participate. Please share the link above and engage as many parent voices as possible in planning ESSA implementation for Michigan.

## Resources

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has released guidance on the following ESSA-related requirements:

**Supporting School Reform by Leveraging Federal Funds in a Schoolwide Program**—In late September, the ED released updated Schoolwide program guidance that details the use of Title I funds for serving all students in a schoolwide program school. This will be one in a series of updates that the ED will release to guide transition to ESSA. Read the [new guidance](#). Earlier guidance on this topic (released July 2015) remains applicable from ED through the 2016-17 school year. [Read the earlier guidance](#).

**Consultation with Indian tribes and tribal organizations**—For the first time, federal law requires affected school districts to consult with tribes on issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native students. Consultation will foster collaboration that is critical to improving academic outcomes for these students. Affected districts with tribal students must collect feedback from tribes and tribal leaders on any plan or application for federal grants and funds. These new consultation requirements take effect for the 2017–18 school year. [Read the FAQ](#).

## What’s Happening Now?

Action Teams are meeting to finalize their detailed recommendations, taking into consideration first-round stakeholder feedback to the “big ideas” presented in August. Watch for new feedback opportunities coming in November.