



Testimony before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

ESSA Implementation: Exploring State and Local Reform Efforts

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Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member Scott, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). My name is Phillip Lovell and I am vice president of policy development and government relations at the Alliance for Excellent Education, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every child graduates ready for college, a career, and citizenship.

This is an important hearing to hold as states develop and finalize their plans to implement ESSA. Having reviewed the state plans submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED), and currently working with states that plan to submit in September, I'd like to discuss with the Committee four core themes that are important to reflect upon as ESSA implementation is analyzed:

1. ESSA is a civil rights law with equity-focused requirements that must be implemented and enforced.
2. ESSA preserves the limited but critical role of the federal government. While I may not agree with all of its findings, I appreciate that ED is carrying out its oversight role as required under the law in its letters to states responding to proposed ESSA plans.
3. The quality of ESSA state plans is uneven. There are certainly some strengths, but there are missed opportunities and many weaknesses, including proposals that are inconsistent with the law.
4. Proposed funding cuts jeopardize ESSA implementation.

ESSA's Equity-Focused Requirements

ESSA is fundamentally a civil rights law with many federal requirements designed to promote educational equity and prepare all students for postsecondary education and the workforce. ESSA provides states with significant flexibility when it comes to *how* they achieve equity and excellence, but ESSA is not a blank check. Both states and ED must implement and enforce all of ESSA's equity-focused requirements. See Appendix A for specific examples of these requirements.

There have been positive results when the federal government has focused on equity in education. For example, ED has been a driving force in the improvement of the nation's high school graduation rate by implementing federal regulations issued under the administration of President George W. Bush to get schools, districts, and states to focus on the problem, set graduation rate goals, and hold themselves accountable over time for achieving them. According to the 2017 *Building a Grad Nation* report, the national high school graduation rate is at an all-time high. All told, 2.8 million more students have graduated from high school since 2001 and gaps in graduation rates between groups of students have narrowed.¹

¹ For more information, see Figure 1, page 15; Appendix C, pages 48–9; Appendix D, page 50; and Appendix F, page 54 in J. DePaoli, J. Bridgeland, and R. Balfanz, *Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Raising High School Graduation Rates* (Washington, DC: Civic Enterprises and Everyone Graduates Center at the School of

While this is promising, the nation will be unable to continue this trend without doubling down on efforts to close gaps among the students who have historically faced the greatest challenges—student from low-income families, African American and Hispanic/Latino students, students with disabilities, Native students, and English learners. This is critical because, although progress has been made, substantial gaps remain. (See Appendix B for information on graduation rate gaps in each state.)

In addition, the nation must improve the low-graduation-rate high schools that disproportionately enroll historically underserved students (see Appendix C for the number of low-graduation-rate high schools in each state).² As states move forward with ESSA implementation plans, it is essential that ED ensures states implement ESSA’s requirement for comprehensive support and improvement in high schools that fail to graduate one-third or more of their students.

ESSA Preserves the Limited but Critical Role of the Federal Government

When Congress enacted ESSA, it preserved the limited but critical role of the federal government in ensuring all children have access to a high-quality education. While I may not agree with all of its findings, I appreciate that ED is carrying out its oversight role as required under the law in its letters to states responding to proposed ESSA plans.

There are many organizations working to decipher what is in state plans and provide the public with digestible information about them. The Alliance, for example, produced ESSA Equity Dashboards that provide a red, yellow, or green determination on thirteen equity-focused requirements. I have submitted the ESSA Equity Dashboards that are currently available as part of my testimony (See Appendices D–H). They are also available at <http://all4ed.org/essa/essa-in-your-state/>. The remaining dashboards for states that have submitted their plans will be available in August. In addition, Bellwether Education Partners and the Collaborative for Student Success led the Check State Plans project (www.checkstateplans.org), a non-governmental peer review process that analyzes state plans and makes information on their strengths and weaknesses available to the public in order to improve them.

I want to be clear that this is not about whether we trust states. I’ve worked with many education state leaders and I know they are committed to kids. The fact remains that, while many people and organizations outside of government are reviewing and commenting on ESSA plans, only ED has the statutory authority and responsibility to review the plans and ensure they comply with the law that this committee wrote.

That said, I believe ED’s comments in several areas are insufficient, have caused confusion, and could diminish the quality of ESSA implementation. For example, ESSA allows states to use “student access to and completion of advanced coursework” as an indicator of school quality and student success [ESSA, Section 1111(c)(4)(B)(v)(V)]. However, ED criticized a state’s proposal

Education at John Hopkins University School of Education, 2017), <https://gradnation.americaspromise.org/report/2017-building-grad-nation-report> (accessed July 12, 2017).

² For more information, see Figure 6, page 28 in J. DePaoli et al., *Building a Grad Nation*.

to incorporate performance in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams in this indicator.

This is an example of the challenges that arise without clear regulations. ESSA explicitly states that access to and completion of advanced course work is permissible, and AP/IB are well-recognized examples of advanced coursework, yet a state was criticized for including AP/IB in their system. States should be applauded for promoting advanced course work, and I hope ED will clarify how these measures can be incorporated into state accountability systems.

An example of inadequate/confusing oversight within ED's letters to states is its review of state proposals to ensure compliance with ESSA's requirement that states identify schools for targeted support and improvement if they have a consistently underperforming subgroup of students. This is a critical equity-focused policy. In order to help states, districts, and schools implement this policy, today the Alliance is releasing a new publication that I submit to the Committee as part of my testimony titled *School Interventions That Work: Targeted Support for Low-Performing Students* (See Appendix I). While I hope this report gives policymakers and practitioners assistance as they support low-performing students, only ED can ensure compliance with the law.

One state, for example, states in its ESSA plan that "a school will be identified if it has one or more of the lowest performing subgroups in the state over multiple years." ED's letter to this state appropriately notes that the state must define "multiple years." However, ED fails to require the state to define what level of performance would constitute identification as "one or more of the lowest performing subgroups."

Several states intend to identify schools for targeted support and improvement if one or more subgroups of students demonstrate consistent underperformance in academic achievement and/or high school graduation rates. ED's response letters note that the statute requires states to consider subgroup performance on all indicators in identifying schools. ED needs to clarify that (a) while each indicator must be considered, states are not required to use a composite of all indicators in identifying schools for targeted support, and (b) there is no statutory requirement for students to be consistently underperforming on all indicators to be identified for support.

If states identify schools for targeted improvement based only on a composite of indicators, they are more likely to inadvertently overlook low-performing students because high performance on one indicator could mask low performance on another indicator.

For example, in one state, there are seventy-two high schools where 80 percent or more of the African American students graduate on time; but in these same schools, 60 percent or fewer of the African American students achieve proficiency in math. This represents 22 percent of all high schools in this state. In another state, there are 135 high schools where 80 percent or more of the Latino students graduate within four years, but 60 percent or fewer of the Latino students achieve proficiency in reading. If states aggregate the high school graduation rates, math proficiency rates, and reading proficiency rates together, the high graduation rate will mask the low proficiency rates. As a result, schools with African American and Latino students who are struggling in math and reading may not be identified for support.

Rather than aggregating the performance of student subgroups into a composite, state systems of meaningful differentiation should identify schools for targeted support based on the performance of any *single* subgroup on any *single* indicator. Moreover, states can develop such systems while also complying with ESSA's requirement that states base their system of differentiation on all indicators in the system. They can do this by considering the performance of student subgroups on all indicators when identifying schools and then allowing failure on a single indicator to trigger identification. In other words, *any* indicator can trigger identification, but students need not fail on all indicators to be identified for support.

State plans can be hundreds of pages long. The fact that ED has sent letters to states with less than twenty pages of comments should come as little surprise. This is the bare minimum required for ED to carry out its oversight duty that Congress assigned to it when passing the law. In the absence of clear guidance from ED on these critical issues, states are looking to organizations like the Alliance for Excellent Education for input and insight on best practices and evidence-based strategies to address the needs of their student population.

The Quality of ESSA State Plans Is Uneven

The quality of ESSA state plans is uneven. There are certainly some strengths, but there are missed opportunities and many weaknesses, including proposals that violate the law.

Goals

While states have set high goals for achievement and high school graduation rates, performance against these goals is rarely included in their accountability systems as required under ESSA [ESSA Sec. 1111(c)(4)(B)(i)].

Targeted Support and Improvement for Historically Underserved Students

ESSA very clearly requires states to identify schools for targeted support and improvement if “any subgroup of students is consistently underperforming” [ESSA Sec. 1111(c)(4)(C)(iii)]. Rather than considering the performance of each subgroup, some states aggregate subgroups together, which violates the law and masks the performance of historically underserved students. One state, for example, proposed the use of a “super subgroup” that combines the performance of black, Hispanic, and Native students. This is unfortunate because these groups of students are distinct and they do not have the same level of academic performance. For example, according to this same state's department of education, there is a 20-point difference between the percentage of Native American students (54.2 percent) and that of African American students (74.2 percent) who were below basic when tested on their Algebra I proficiency. Moreover, there is a 26.8-point difference among the same groups in Algebra II proficiency. By combining these groups of students together in violation of the law, this state runs the risk of inadequately supporting historically underserved students.

ESSA also requires states to measure each of their indicators “separately for each subgroup of students” [ESSA, Sec. 1111(c)(4)(B)] for accountability purposes. To my knowledge, no state is

proposing to do this in their ESSA plan. Many states propose systems that will give schools ratings, but these ratings do not specifically include the performance of student subgroups as envisioned under the law. What this means is that schools can receive an “A,” even though African American students, Latino students, or other historically underserved groups are underperforming.

To be very clear, this is not a hypothetical situation. A report from The Education Trust provides an example of a state where, in schools that received an “A,” only 58 percent of African American students were proficient in reading.³

95 Percent Test Participation Rate

Additionally, ESSA requires that 95 percent of students participate in statewide assessments so that low-performing students are not encouraged to be absent on test day. States are required to incorporate this policy into their accountability systems, yet the degree to which this is meaningfully happening varies considerably across state plans. One state, for example, explicitly states that it intends to defy the law. Specifically, ESSA is very clear about how test participation is to be calculated [ESSA, Section 1111(c)(4)(E)(ii)] and this state explicitly states that it will use a different calculation. Several other states fail to specify consequences for failing to meet the 95 percent test participation requirement for all students and each subgroup. For example, one state intends only to apply this requirement to the “all students” group and its “super-subgroup.” Another state does not address this requirement and merely states that it will await guidance from ED.

The 95 percent test participation requirement is yet another area where ED’s oversight has been lacking. Not a single letter from ED has mentioned this critical equity-focused policy.

High School Graduation Rates

ESSA requires states to include the four-year graduation rate in their accountability systems because the ultimate goal of the K–12 education system is for students to graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce. There is a long history of inaccurate calculations being used to mask low graduation rates, which is why ESSA is explicit about the use of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, even going so far as to provide a specific definition for the calculation. Nonetheless, several states do not use the four-year graduation rate as a stand-alone indicator in their accountability systems as required under the law.

Innovation

While ESSA’s flexibility was intended to unleash creativity and innovation, this by and large has not happened. We hoped to see policies that promote critical thinking and problem solving, what

³ N. Ushomirsky, D. Williams, and D. Hall, *Making Sure All Children Matter: Getting School Accountability Signals Right* (Washington, DC: Education Trust, 2014), <https://edtrust.org/resource/making-sure-all-children-matter-getting-school-accountability-signals-right/> (accessed July 14, 2017).

some refer to as “deeper learning,” not just memorization and test-taking skills. However, state plans thus far would be more accurately characterized as cautious, not courageous. That said, there are a few notable exceptions:

- Louisiana is raising expectations for its students and ensuring that an “A” rating reflects the level of performance that one would expect of an “A” school. Louisiana also incorporates a “strength of diploma” indicator in its accountability system to incentivize preparation for postsecondary education and the workforce.
- Delaware and Illinois are examples of states that incorporate the percentage of ninth-grade students who are on track for on-time graduation. This is an indicator demonstrated by research to accurately predict high school graduation rates and will incentivize early intervention to increase graduation rates.⁴
- Several states (Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Vermont) propose to include measures of college and career readiness in their accountability system (e.g., access to and performance in rigorous course work).

Proposed Funding Cuts Jeopardize ESSA Implementation

Money is not magic. However, funding was promised when Congress passed ESSA. Cuts proposed by the Trump administration and House Labor-H committee will undermine the law before states have the chance to implement it. ESSA provides states with flexibility and responsibility. But responsibility without resources will not lead to results.

By freezing funding for Title I, under-funding Title IV, Part A, and proposing to eliminate or reduce funding for professional development, literacy, and after school programs—on top of proposed cuts to Medicaid that jeopardize the services schools provide to the nation’s most vulnerable children—states are being handcuffed at the exact moment they have supposedly been given freedom.

Conclusion

It is paramount that we work together to support states in developing their ESSA plans because these plans are more than just a bureaucratic exercise in compliance. State ESSA plans outline a state’s vision, strategy, and commitment to children, parents, teachers, school leaders, employers, and the public writ large regarding how they will ensure all students have access to an education that is characterized by equity and excellence.

Considering that nearly two-thirds of the nation’s jobs will require at least some postsecondary education by the year 2020,⁵ it is not hyperbole to suggest that ESSA implementation is at the heart of the nation’s economic success. We can either step on the gas or put on the brakes. By maintaining a commitment to equity, enforcing ESSA’s requirements, and strengthening the investment in education, the nation can ensure that every child in America graduates from high school prepared for the competitive economy that lies ahead.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

⁴ For more information see the University of Chicago’s To & Through Project at <https://toandthrough.uchicago.edu/>.

⁵ A. Carnevale, N. Smith, and J. Strohl, *Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2013), https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.ES_Web.pdf.

Appendix A: Equity-Focused Requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act

Long-term goals and measurements of interim progress

Section 1111(c)(4)(A) requires each State to establish ambitious long-term goals and measurements of interim progress toward those goals for academic achievement and high school graduation rates for all students and *each subgroup of students*.

Accountability indicators

Section 1111(c)(4)(B) requires each state to include multiple indicators of student performance in its statewide accountability system. These indicators must be annually measured for all students and separately for *each subgroup of students* for each school in the state. The required indicators include: student scores on annual assessments; English language proficiency; at least one indicator of school quality or student success; for elementary and middle schools, a measure of student growth or other academic indicator; and for high schools, graduation rates.

Participation in assessments

Section 1111(c)(4)(E) requires each State to annually measure the achievement of not less than 95 percent of all students and 95 percent of all students in *each subgroup of students* on the statewide assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics. Each State must also factor this requirement into its statewide accountability system.

Subgroups of students

Section 1111(c)(2) *requires the following subgroups of students to be included* in a statewide accountability system: economically disadvantaged students; students from major racial and ethnic groups; children with disabilities; and English learners.

Disaggregation of student data (n-size)

Section 1111(c)(3) requires each State to determine, in consultation with stakeholders, a minimum number of students (“n-size”) to be used for accountability and reporting purposes. The n-size must be the same for all students and for *each subgroup of students*.

Comprehensive support and improvement schools

Section 1111(c)(4)(D) requires each State to establish a methodology based on the system for annual meaningful differentiation to identify public schools for comprehensive support and improvement beginning with the 2017-18 school year, and at least once every three years thereafter. Comprehensive support and improvement schools include: the lowest-performing five percent of all Title I schools in the State; any public high school in the State failing to graduate one-third or more of its students; and Title I schools with a consistently underperforming student subgroup performing at the level of the lowest-performing five percent of Title I schools that has failed to improve after implementation of a targeted support and improvement plan.

Targeted support and improvement schools

Section 1111(c)(4)(C)(iii) and Section 1111(d)(2)(A)(i) require each state to use its system for annual meaningful differentiation to identify public schools in which *any*

subgroup of students is consistently underperforming, as determined by the state, for targeted support and improvement.

In addition, Section 1111(d)(2)(C) requires the identification of public schools with a subgroup performing at the level of the lowest-performing five percent of Title I schools for targeted support and improvement.

STATE	White Students	African American Students	Percentage Point Difference (%)	STATE	White Students	African American Student	Percentage Point Difference (%)
	Rate (%)	Rate (%)			Rate (%)	Rate (%)	
Wisconsin	92.9%	64.1%	28.8	Louisiana	82.7%	71.4%	11.3
Ohio	85.7%	59.7%	26.0	Virginia	89.6%	78.8%	10.8
Minnesota	86.9%	62.0%	24.9	Arizona	83.2%	72.6%	10.6
Nevada	78.0%	55.5%	22.5	Tennessee	90.9%	80.6%	10.3
New York	88.7%	66.5%	22.2	Arkansas	87.4%	77.5%	9.9
Nebraska	92.5%	75.0%	17.5	Maryland	92.0%	82.3%	9.7
Pennsylvania	89.3%	71.8%	17.5	Rhode Island	86.6%	77.0%	9.6
South Dakota	89.5%	72.0%	17.5	Kansas	88.3%	79.0%	9.3
Utah	87.4%	70.0%	17.4	Alaska	80.0%	71.0%	9.0
California	88.0%	71.0%	17.0	Kentucky	89.3%	80.4%	8.9
Michigan	83.5%	67.3%	16.2	New Hampshire	88.9%	80.0%	8.9
Missouri	90.6%	75.6%	15.0	Texas	93.4%	85.2%	8.2
Connecticut	92.7%	78.0%	14.7	Maine	87.9%	80.0%	7.9
Florida	82.7%	68.0%	14.7	Georgia	82.8%	75.2%	7.6
Illinois	90.2%	75.5%	14.7	Vermont	88.5%	81.0%	7.5
Indiana	89.6%	74.9%	14.7	Mississippi	79.4%	72.0%	7.4
North Dakota	90.6%	76.0%	14.6	Oklahoma	84.2%	77.4%	6.8
Massachusetts	91.6%	77.5%	14.1	Montana	88.7%	82.0%	6.7
Wyoming	81.8%	68.0%	13.8	North Carolina	88.3%	82.2%	6.1
Iowa	92.4%	79.0%	13.4	South Carolina	82.7%	76.7%	6.0
Oregon	76.0%	63.0%	13.0	Idaho	80.8%	75.0%	5.8
Colorado	82.6%	69.9%	12.7	Hawaii	79.0%	74.0%	5.0
New Mexico	73.6%	61.0%	12.6	Delaware	88.0%	83.2%	4.8
New Jersey	94.0%	81.5%	12.5	West Virginia	86.7%	83.0%	3.7
Washington	80.9%	68.8%	12.1	Alabama*	90.5%	87.0%	3.5

*In December 2016, following an internal audit and US Department of Education investigation, Alabama education officials announced that graduation rates in the state had been improperly calculated and that the reported rates were inaccurate. We include the reported rates here, but note this important caveat and warn that these rates, in many cases, may be inflated.

Note: These tables are sorted by the Percentage Point Gap Differences between groups for the 2014-15 State Level ACGR.

Source: U.S. Department of Education (2016). Provisional Data File: SY2014-15 Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates (ACGR); Building A Grad Nation, 2017, Pages 51-53

STATE	White Students	Hispanic Students	Percentage Point Difference (%)	STATE	White Students	Hispanic Students	Percentage Point Difference (%)
	Rate (%)	Rate (%)			Rate (%)	Rate (%)	
New York	88.7%	66.0%	22.7	Idaho	80.8%	71.2%	9.6
Minnesota	86.9%	65.6%	21.3	Illinois	90.2%	80.7%	9.5
Pennsylvania	89.3%	69.5%	19.8	Iowa	92.4%	83.0%	9.4
South Dakota	89.5%	70.0%	19.5	California	88.0%	79.0%	9.0
Massachusetts	91.6%	72.2%	19.4	Oregon	76.0%	67.4%	8.6
Connecticut	92.7%	74.8%	17.9	North Carolina	88.3%	80.0%	8.3
Ohio	85.7%	69.9%	15.8	Alaska	80.0%	72.0%	8.0
North Dakota	90.6%	75.0%	15.6	Maine	87.9%	80.0%	7.9
Wisconsin	92.9%	77.5%	15.4	Louisiana	82.7%	75.0%	7.7
Maryland	92.0%	76.9%	15.1	Tennessee	90.9%	83.5%	7.4
Colorado	82.6%	67.6%	15.0	Delaware	88.0%	81.0%	7.0
New Hampshire	88.9%	75.0%	13.9	Texas	93.4%	86.5%	6.9
Virginia	89.6%	76.0%	13.6	Indiana	89.6%	83.0%	6.6
Utah	87.4%	74.4%	13.0	Missouri	90.6%	84.0%	6.6
Michigan	83.5%	72.1%	11.4	New Mexico	73.6%	67.2%	6.4
Mississippi	79.4%	68.0%	11.4	Kentucky	89.3%	83.0%	6.3
Nevada	78.0%	66.7%	11.3	Florida	82.7%	76.7%	6.0
Washington	80.9%	69.6%	11.3	Montana	88.7%	83.0%	5.7
New Jersey	94.0%	82.8%	11.2	South Carolina	82.7%	77.0%	5.7
Nebraska	92.5%	81.6%	10.9	Oklahoma	84.2%	78.8%	5.4
Georgia	82.8%	72.0%	10.8	Hawaii	79.0%	75.0%	4.0
Rhode Island	86.6%	76.0%	10.6	Arkansas	87.4%	84.5%	2.9
Arizona	83.2%	72.7%	10.5	Alabama*	90.5%	90.0%	0.5
Kansas	88.3%	78.2%	10.1	Vermont	88.5%	†	†
Wyoming	81.8%	72.0%	9.8	West Virginia	86.7%	†	†

*In December 2016, following an internal audit and US Department of Education investigation, Alabama education officials announced that graduation rates in the state had been improperly calculated and that the reported rates were inaccurate. We include the reported rates here, but note this important caveat and warn that these rates, in many cases, may be inflated.

Note. These tables are sorted by the Percentage Point Gap Differences between groups for the 2014-15 State Level ACGR.

Source: U.S. Department of Education (2016). Provisional Data File: SY2014-15 Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates (ACGR). Building A Grad Nation, 2017, Pages 51-53

STATE	English Language Learners (ELL)	Non-ELL	Percentage Point Difference (%)	STATE	English Language Learners (ELL)	Non-ELL	Percentage Point Difference (%)
	Rate (%)	Rate (%)			Rate (%)	Rate (%)	
New York	36.0%	81.6%	45.6	Florida	59.5%	79.4%	19.9
Arizona	34.0%	78.0%	44.0	Utah	66.0%	85.6%	19.6
Nevada	32.0%	74.9%	42.9	Vermont	69.0%	88.1%	19.1
Virginia	44.6%	87.5%	42.9	Colorado	61.1%	79.4%	18.3
Maryland	49.0%	87.7%	38.7	Delaware	69.0%	86.3%	17.3
Hawaii	46.0%	83.3%	37.3	Missouri	71.0%	88.0%	17.0
Nebraska	55.0%	90.1%	35.1	Texas	73.3%	90.2%	16.9
Ohio	50.0%	81.1%	31.1	New Jersey	74.0%	90.3%	16.3
South Dakota	56.0%	84.5%	28.5	California	69.0%	85.1%	16.1
North Carolina	58.0%	86.3%	28.3	Wyoming	64.0%	79.7%	15.7
Louisiana	50.0%	77.8%	27.8	Alabama*	75.0%	89.4%	14.4
Wisconsin	62.0%	89.0%	27.0	Illinois	72.0%	86.2%	14.2
North Dakota	62.0%	87.2%	25.2	Tennessee	75.0%	88.2%	13.2
Massachusetts	64.0%	89.0%	25.0	Indiana	75.0%	87.4%	12.4
Montana	62.0%	86.9%	24.9	New Hampshire	77.0%	88.4%	11.4
Oregon	51.0%	75.0%	24.0	Maine	77.0%	87.7%	10.7
Washington	55.8%	79.5%	23.7	Kansas	77.0%	86.5%	9.5
Georgia	56.4%	79.6%	23.2	Iowa	83.0%	91.1%	8.1
Oklahoma	60.0%	83.0%	23.0	Michigan	72.1%	80.1%	8.0
Pennsylvania	62.6%	85.3%	22.7	Idaho	72.0%	79.5%	7.5
Mississippi	53.0%	75.6%	22.6	Rhode Island	77.0%	84.0%	7.0
Connecticut	67.0%	88.3%	21.3	New Mexico	64.0%	70.3%	6.3
Kentucky	67.0%	88.2%	21.2	South Carolina	76.0%	80.4%	4.4
Alaska	56.0%	77.0%	21.0	West Virginia	86.0%	86.5%	0.5
Minnesota	63.1%	83.2%	20.1	Arkansas	86.0%	84.8%	-1.2

*In December 2016, following an internal audit and US Department of Education investigation, Alabama education officials announced that graduation rates in the state had been improperly calculated and that the reported rates were inaccurate. We include the reported rates here, but note this important caveat and warn that these rates, in many cases, may be inflated.

Note. These tables are sorted by the Percentage Point Gap Differences between groups for the 2014-15 State Level ACGR.

Source: U.S. Department of Education (2016). Provisional Data File: SY2014-15 Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates (ACGR). Building A Grad Nation 2017, Pages 51-53

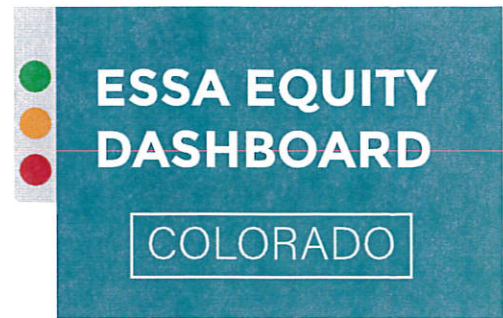
Appendix C. ESSA High Schools (100 or more students) with ACGR of 67 Percent or Below by State, 2014-15

Alabama	5
Alaska	33
Arizona	111
Arkansas	10
California	191
Colorado	92
Connecticut	10
Delaware	7
District Of Columbia	14
Florida	191
Georgia	59
Hawaii	8
Idaho	33
Illinois	48
Indiana	33
Iowa	11
Kansas	14
Kentucky	13
Maine	1
Maryland	32
Massachusetts	39
Michigan	172
Minnesota	60
Mississippi	22
Missouri	16
Montana	6
Nebraska	3
Nevada	31
New Hampshire	3
New Jersey	11
New Mexico	72
New York	265
North Carolina	14
North Dakota	7
Ohio	156
Oklahoma	22
Oregon	61
Pennsylvania	52
Rhode Island	4
South Carolina	16
South Dakota	6
Tennessee	25
Texas	89
Utah	30
Vermont	1
Virginia	10
Washington	99
West Virginia	0
Wisconsin	35
Wyoming	6
Total	2249

For more information, see Appendix L, page 62 in J. DePaoli, J. Bridgeland, and R. Balfanz, *Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Raising High School Graduation Rates*, (Washington, DC: Civic Enterprises and Everyone Graduates Center at the School of Education at John Hopkins University School of Education, 2017), <https://gradnation.americaspromise.org/report/2017-building-grad-nation-report> (accessed July 12, 2017).


AN ANALYSIS OF COLORADO'S ESSA PLAN

This dashboard analyzes Colorado's plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifically its commitment to equity and excellence and its compliance with the law. This analysis is not all-encompassing but rather focuses on the indicators most essential for advancing equitable educational opportunities for all students. Colorado submitted its plan on May 9, 2017; full text is available at <https://ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/cocsa2017.pdf>. View ESSA equity dashboards for other states at www.all4ed.org/essa.




LONG-TERM GOALS


Academic Achievement

 No clear goals for proficiency in reading or math
Red


Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

 Same long-term goals for each subgroup
Green


4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

 90.3% of students graduating by 2023
Green

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate


 Will measure 5-, 6-, and 7-year cohort graduation rates but no goals set for each rate
Red

English Language Proficiency


 Has not set maximum timelines but plans to set ones that account for students' initial proficiency level
Red

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of "Consistently Underperforming" Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

 Schools with a student subgroup that earns lowest rating on at least 3 indicators are classified as having a "consistently underperforming" subgroup
Yellow

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

 Unclear if state will use 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year cohort graduation rate
Red

! CONCERN


Performance on goals does not matter in the state accountability system

! CONCERN


Colorado does not define "lowest rating," which could lead to overlooking low-performing students

ACCOUNTABILITY


Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

 Disaggregates subgroups by race, ethnicity, income, English language proficiency, and disability status; combines students from non-white racial groups that do not meet minimum n-size
Green


N-Size

 16 students for achievement and high school graduation rate; 20 students for academic growth
Yellow


School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

 Dropout rate for high school; chronic absenteeism for elementary and middle schools
Green


High School Graduation Rate

 Uses 4-year and extended-year cohort graduation rates but weights assigned to each are unclear
Yellow

Weighting of Academic Indicators

 100% weight in all grades
Green

Testing Participation Rates

 Does not specify any consequences for schools assessing fewer than 95% of students; state explicitly says it will not comply with federal law on this issue
Red

! CONCERN

Dropout rates provide confusing information regarding the percentage of students completing high school; unclear what value dropout rates add

Note: Some indicators do not apply to some states and, consequently, do not appear in the analysis included on the front of this document. The Alliance for Excellent Education set the parameters associated with the green, yellow, and red designations.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

- Green: 75% or more of all students proficient on statewide assessments by 2030 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Yellow: 60–74.9% of all students proficient by 2030 or 75% or more proficient by 2031–39 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

- Green: Same long-term goals for each subgroup or similarly ambitious commitment to closing achievement gaps
- Yellow: Less ambitious goals but requires higher rates of growth from lower-performing subgroups
- Red: Same or similar rates of academic growth for all subgroups

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: 90% or more of students graduating by 2030
- Yellow: 85–89.9% of students graduating by 2030 or 90% or more graduating by 2031–39
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: At least 3 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Yellow: 1–2 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Red: Goals are the same or state does not set goals for each cohort rate

English Language Proficiency

- Green: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level in setting student targets with maximum timeline of no more than 6 years to achieve proficiency
- Yellow: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level with maximum timeline of 7 years to achieve proficiency
- Red: Does not account for initial age/grade or proficiency level and/or sets maximum timeline of 8 or more years to achieve proficiency

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

- Green: State does not use super-subgroup or uses it only in addition to disaggregated subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support
- Red: State uses super-subgroups instead of required subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support

N-Size

- Green: N-size for accountability of 15 or fewer students
- Yellow: N-size for accountability of 16–25 students
- Red: N-size for accountability of 26 or more students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

- Green: Evidence-based statewide SQSS measures are disaggregated by student subgroup
- Yellow: Inconclusive evidence for SQSS measures or significant measures are in development but still statewide and disaggregated by student subgroup
- Red: No evidence for SQSS measures and/or not statewide or disaggregated by student subgroup

High School Graduation Rate

- Green: Exclusively uses or gives more weight to 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: Uses 4- and extended-year cohort rates and weights 4-year rate equally or less than other rates
- Red: Does not use 4-year cohort rate or uses another unlawful graduation rate calculation

Weighting of Academic Indicators

- Green: 75% or more weight on academic indicators
- Yellow: 50–74% weight on academic indicators
- Red: Less than 50% weight on academic indicators or weight is unclear in plan

Testing Participation Rates

- Green: No credit for untested students or similarly rigorous consequences
- Yellow: Less rigorous consequences that have limited implications for accountability
- Red: Does not specify consequences for untested students

Inclusion of Subgroup Performance

- Green: Schools receive lower rating if they have a struggling subgroup or subgroup performance is an independent and substantial portion of rating index
- Yellow: Subgroups have lesser but still meaningful effect on a school's rating
- Red: Subgroups have little to no effect on a school's rating

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of “Consistently Underperforming” Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

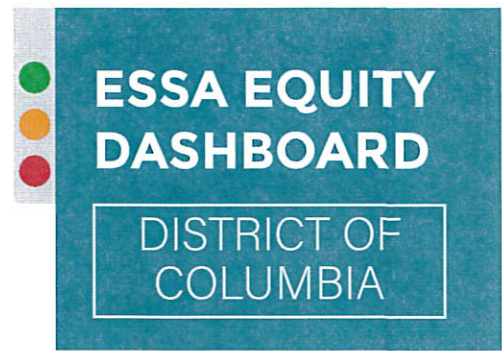
- Green: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 2 or fewer indicators
- Yellow: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 3 or more indicators
- Red: Definition is not meaningfully different from statutory definition of “low performing” or does not comply with ESSA

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

- Green: 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: 5-year cohort graduation rate
- Red: 6-year (or longer) cohort graduation rate


AN ANALYSIS OF DC'S ESSA PLAN

This dashboard analyzes the District of Columbia's (DC's) plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifically its commitment to equity and excellence and its compliance with the law. This analysis is not all-encompassing but rather focuses on the indicators most essential for advancing equitable educational opportunities for all students. DC submitted its plan on May 2, 2017; full text is available at <https://ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/dccsa2017.pdf>. View ESSA equity dashboards for other states at www.all4ed.org/essa.




LONG-TERM GOALS


Academic Achievement

 85% of students proficient in reading and math by 2039
Yellow


Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

 Same long-term goals for each subgroup
Green

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate


 90% of students graduating by 2039
Yellow

English Language Proficiency


 Accounts for students' initial grade and proficiency level in setting student goals with maximum of 5 years to attain proficiency
Green

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of "Consistently Underperforming" Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support


 Definition is not meaningfully different from that of "low-performing" and is unlikely to result in additional students receiving support
Red

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support


 4-year cohort graduation rate
Green

ACCOUNTABILITY


Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

 Disaggregates subgroups by race, ethnicity, income, English language proficiency, and disability status
Green

N-Size

 10 students
Green


School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

 Uses "school environment" indicator that includes measures of chronic absenteeism, **in-seat attendance**, re-enrollment in same school, and research-based observational tool assessing quality of student learning in pre-K classes
Green

High School Graduation Rate

 Does not use extended-year cohort graduation rates
Green


Weighting of Academic Indicators

 75% weight in all grades
Green

Testing Participation Rates

 Does not specify consequences for untested students; DC says it will implement system of "supports, technical assistance, and monitoring" for schools that do not meet required 95% participation rate
Red

Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance

 Assigns 25% of overall school rating based on student subgroup performance
Green

NOTE

DC plans to design and include measures of "access to opportunities" and "school climate" in its accountability system

! CONCERN

In-seat attendance is somewhat duplicative of and inferior to chronic absenteeism

Note: Some indicators do not apply to some states and, consequently, do not appear in the analysis included on the front of this document. The Alliance for Excellent Education set the parameters associated with the green, yellow, and red designations.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

- Green: 75% or more of all students proficient on statewide assessments by 2030 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Yellow: 60–74.9% of all students proficient by 2030 or 75% or more proficient by 2031–39 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

- Green: Same long-term goals for each subgroup or similarly ambitious commitment to closing achievement gaps
- Yellow: Less ambitious goals but requires higher rates of growth from lower-performing subgroups
- Red: Same or similar rates of academic growth for all subgroups

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: 90% or more of students graduating by 2030
- Yellow: 85–89.9% of students graduating by 2030 or 90% or more graduating by 2031–39
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: At least 3 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Yellow: 1–2 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Red: Goals are the same or state does not set goals for each cohort rate

English Language Proficiency

- Green: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level in setting student targets with maximum timeline of no more than 6 years to achieve proficiency
- Yellow: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level with maximum timeline of 7 years to achieve proficiency
- Red: Does not account for initial age/grade or proficiency level and/or sets maximum timeline of 8 or more years to achieve proficiency

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

- Green: State does not use super-subgroup or uses it only in addition to disaggregated subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support
- Red: State uses super-subgroups instead of required subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support

N-Size

- Green: N-size for accountability of 15 or fewer students
- Yellow: N-size for accountability of 16–25 students
- Red: N-size for accountability of 26 or more students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

- Green: Evidence-based statewide SQSS measures are disaggregated by student subgroup
- Yellow: Inconclusive evidence for SQSS measures or significant measures are in development but still statewide and disaggregated by student subgroup
- Red: No evidence for SQSS measures and/or not statewide or disaggregated by student subgroup

High School Graduation Rate

- Green: Exclusively uses or gives more weight to 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: Uses 4- and extended-year cohort rates and weights 4-year rate equally or less than other rates
- Red: Does not use 4-year cohort rate or uses another unlawful graduation rate calculation

Weighting of Academic Indicators

- Green: 75% or more weight on academic indicators
- Yellow: 50–74% weight on academic indicators
- Red: Less than 50% weight on academic indicators or weight is unclear in plan

Testing Participation Rates

- Green: No credit for untested students or similarly rigorous consequences
- Yellow: Less rigorous consequences that have limited implications for accountability
- Red: Does not specify consequences for untested students

Inclusion of Subgroup Performance

- Green: Schools receive lower rating if they have a struggling subgroup or subgroup performance is an independent and substantial portion of rating index
- Yellow: Subgroups have lesser but still meaningful effect on a school's rating
- Red: Subgroups have little to no effect on a school's rating

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of “Consistently Underperforming” Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

- Green: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 2 or fewer indicators
- Yellow: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 3 or more indicators
- Red: Definition is not meaningfully different from statutory definition of “low performing” or does not comply with ESSA

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

- Green: 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: 5-year cohort graduation rate
- Red: 6-year (or longer) cohort graduation rate

AN ANALYSIS OF ILLINOIS'S ESSA PLAN

This dashboard analyzes Illinois's plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifically its commitment to equity and excellence and its compliance with the law. This analysis is not all-encompassing but rather focuses on the indicators most essential for advancing equitable educational opportunities for all students. Illinois submitted its plan on May 2, 2017; full text is available at <https://ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/lcsa2017.pdf>. View ESSA equity dashboards for other states at www.all4ed.org/essa.



LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

Green 76% of students proficient in reading and math by 2028;
90% proficient by 2032

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

Green Same long-term goals for each subgroup

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

Yellow 88.9% of students graduating by 2028

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

Red Same graduation rate goals for 4-, 5-, and 6-year cohort rates

English Language Proficiency

Green Accounts for students' initial age and proficiency level in setting student goals with maximum of 5 years to attain proficiency

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of "Consistently Underperforming" Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

Red Definition is strong in that it includes former English learners and former students with disabilities, but it fails to include all other student subgroups as required under ESSA

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

Green 4-year cohort graduation rate

★ BONUS

Illinois is on track to achieve 90% high school graduation rate by 2032

★ BONUS

School ratings are tied directly to progress on these long-term goals

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

Green Disaggregates subgroups by race, ethnicity, income, English language proficiency, and disability status

N-Size

Yellow 20 students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

Yellow Chronic absenteeism, 9th-grade on-track, college- and career-ready indicator (in development), and climate survey (in development)

High School Graduation Rate

Red Unclear if and how Illinois is using 4-year cohort graduation rate; state will create growth measure using graduation rate and 9th-grade on-track indicator

Weighting of Academic Indicators

Green 95% weight in high schools

Testing Participation Rates

Yellow Illinois specifies only somewhat rigorous consequences; schools cannot receive highest level of proficiency indicator and may be identified for targeted support if they fail to meet required 95% participation rate 3 years in a row

Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance

Green A school cannot receive top 2 designations if it has an underperforming student subgroup

★ BONUS

9th-grade on-track indicator is innovative and a potential model for other states

! CONCERN

English language proficiency receives a weight of only 5%, while English learners make up 10.5% of the student population



Note: Some indicators do not apply to some states and, consequently, do not appear in the analysis included on the front of this document. The Alliance for Excellent Education set the parameters associated with the green, yellow, and red designations.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

- Green: 75% or more of all students proficient on statewide assessments by 2030 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Yellow: 60–74.9% of all students proficient by 2030 or 75% or more proficient by 2031–39 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

- Green: Same long-term goals for each subgroup or similarly ambitious commitment to closing achievement gaps
- Yellow: Less ambitious goals but requires higher rates of growth from lower-performing subgroups
- Red: Same or similar rates of academic growth for all subgroups

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: 90% or more of students graduating by 2030
- Yellow: 85–89.9% of students graduating by 2030 or 90% or more graduating by 2031–39
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: At least 3 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Yellow: 1–2 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Red: Goals are the same or state does not set goals for each cohort rate

English Language Proficiency

- Green: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level in setting student targets with maximum timeline of no more than 6 years to achieve proficiency
- Yellow: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level with maximum timeline of 7 years to achieve proficiency
- Red: Does not account for initial age/grade or proficiency level and/or sets maximum timeline of 8 or more years to achieve proficiency

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

- Green: State does not use super-subgroup or uses it only in addition to disaggregated subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support
- Red: State uses super-subgroups instead of required subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support

N-Size

- Green: N-size for accountability of 15 or fewer students
- Yellow: N-size for accountability of 16–25 students
- Red: N-size for accountability of 26 or more students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

- Green: Evidence-based statewide SQSS measures are disaggregated by student subgroup
- Yellow: Inconclusive evidence for SQSS measures or significant measures are in development but still statewide and disaggregated by student subgroup
- Red: No evidence for SQSS measures and/or not statewide or disaggregated by student subgroup

High School Graduation Rate

- Green: Exclusively uses or gives more weight to 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: Uses 4- and extended-year cohort rates and weights 4-year rate equally or less than other rates
- Red: Does not use 4-year cohort rate or uses another unlawful graduation rate calculation

Weighting of Academic Indicators

- Green: 75% or more weight on academic indicators
- Yellow: 50–74% weight on academic indicators
- Red: Less than 50% weight on academic indicators or weight is unclear in plan

Testing Participation Rates

- Green: No credit for untested students or similarly rigorous consequences
- Yellow: Less rigorous consequences that have limited implications for accountability
- Red: Does not specify consequences for untested students

Inclusion of Subgroup Performance

- Green: Schools receive lower rating if they have a struggling subgroup or subgroup performance is an independent and substantial portion of rating index
- Yellow: Subgroups have lesser but still meaningful effect on a school's rating
- Red: Subgroups have little to no effect on a school's rating

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of “Consistently Underperforming” Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

- Green: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 2 or fewer indicators
- Yellow: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 3 or more indicators
- Red: Definition is not meaningfully different from statutory definition of “low performing” or does not comply with ESSA

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

- Green: 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: 5-year cohort graduation rate
- Red: 6-year (or longer) cohort graduation rate

AN ANALYSIS OF LOUISIANA'S ESSA PLAN

This dashboard analyzes Louisiana's plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifically its commitment to equity and excellence and its compliance with the law. This analysis is not all-encompassing but rather focuses on the indicators most essential for advancing equitable educational opportunities for all students. Louisiana submitted its plan on May 3, 2017; full text is available at <https://ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/lacsa2017.pdf>. View ESSA equity dashboards for other states at www.all4ed.org/essa.



LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

Green More than doubles achievement levels for most underserved students on rigorous timeframe (63.5% of students proficient in reading and 56.5% of students proficient in math by 2025)

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

Green Same long-term goals for each subgroup

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

Green 90% of students graduating by 2025

English Language Proficiency

Yellow Accounts for students' initial proficiency level in setting student goals with a maximum of 7 years to attain proficiency

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of "Consistently Underperforming" Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

Yellow A school with a student subgroup performing at a level equal to an "F" on the multi-indicator rating system will be identified for targeted support

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

Green 4-year cohort graduation rate

NOTE

Achievement levels for Latino students would increase by 25.5 percentage points in reading and 23.5 percentage points in math

CONCERN

Performance on goals does not count in school ratings

BONUS

Maximum years to proficiency is differentiated by initial level of proficiency

BONUS

Schools with excessive out-of-school discipline will be identified for targeted support

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

Green Disaggregates subgroups by race, ethnicity, income, English language proficiency, and disability status

N-Size

Green 10 students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

Green Dropout credit accumulation index measures credit accumulation in 9th grade; strength of diploma index awards points for students' success in rigorous course work; interest and opportunities indicator will measure student access to a well-rounded education (still in development)

High School Graduation Rate

Green Uses the 4-year cohort graduation rate

Weighting of Academic Indicators

Green 95% weight in all grades

Testing Participation Rates

Green No credit for untested students

Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance

Green Schools identified for targeted intervention cannot receive an "A" rating

BONUS

Strength of diploma index provides incentive for college and career readiness

Note: Some indicators do not apply to some states and, consequently, do not appear in the analysis included on the front of this document. The Alliance for Excellent Education set the parameters associated with the green, yellow, and red designations.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

- Green: 75% or more of all students proficient on statewide assessments by 2030 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Yellow: 60–74.9% of all students proficient by 2030 or 75% or more proficient by 2031–39 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

- Green: Same long-term goals for each subgroup or similarly ambitious commitment to closing achievement gaps
- Yellow: Less ambitious goals but requires higher rates of growth from lower-performing subgroups
- Red: Same or similar rates of academic growth for all subgroups

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: 90% or more of students graduating by 2030
- Yellow: 85–89.9% of students graduating by 2030 or 90% or more graduating by 2031–39
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: At least 3 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Yellow: 1–2 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Red: Goals are the same or state does not set goals for each cohort rate

English Language Proficiency

- Green: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level in setting student targets with maximum timeline of no more than 6 years to achieve proficiency
- Yellow: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level with maximum timeline of 7 years to achieve proficiency
- Red: Does not account for initial age/grade or proficiency level and/or sets maximum timeline of 8 or more years to achieve proficiency

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

- Green: State does not use super-subgroup or uses it only in addition to disaggregated subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support
- Red: State uses super-subgroups instead of required subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support

N-Size

- Green: N-size for accountability of 15 or fewer students
- Yellow: N-size for accountability of 16–25 students
- Red: N-size for accountability of 26 or more students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

- Green: Evidence-based statewide SQSS measures are disaggregated by student subgroup
- Yellow: Inconclusive evidence for SQSS measures or significant measures are in development but still statewide and disaggregated by student subgroup
- Red: No evidence for SQSS measures and/or not statewide or disaggregated by student subgroup

High School Graduation Rate

- Green: Exclusively uses or gives more weight to 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: Uses 4- and extended-year cohort rates and weights 4-year rate equally or less than other rates
- Red: Does not use 4-year cohort rate or uses another unlawful graduation rate calculation

Weighting of Academic Indicators

- Green: 75% or more weight on academic indicators
- Yellow: 50–74% weight on academic indicators
- Red: Less than 50% weight on academic indicators or weight is unclear in plan

Testing Participation Rates

- Green: No credit for untested students or similarly rigorous consequences
- Yellow: Less rigorous consequences that have limited implications for accountability
- Red: Does not specify consequences for untested students

Inclusion of Subgroup Performance

- Green: Schools receive lower rating if they have a struggling subgroup or subgroup performance is an independent and substantial portion of rating index
- Yellow: Subgroups have lesser but still meaningful effect on a school's rating
- Red: Subgroups have little to no effect on a school's rating

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of “Consistently Underperforming” Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

- Green: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 2 or fewer indicators
- Yellow: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 3 or more indicators
- Red: Definition is not meaningfully different from statutory definition of “low performing” or does not comply with ESSA

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

- Green: 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: 5-year cohort graduation rate
- Red: 6-year (or longer) cohort graduation rate


AN ANALYSIS OF NEW MEXICO'S ESSA PLAN

This dashboard analyzes New Mexico's plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifically its commitment to equity and excellence and its compliance with the law. This analysis is not all-encompassing but rather focuses on the indicators most essential for advancing equitable educational opportunities for all students. New Mexico submitted its plan on April 11, 2017; full text is available at <https://ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/nmcsa2017.pdf>. View ESSA equity dashboards for other states at www.all4ed.org/essa.




LONG-TERM GOALS


Academic Achievement

 64.9% of students proficient in reading and 61.2% of students proficient in math by 2022



Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

 Although goals differ by subgroup, every subgroup has a goal that more than doubles the group's math and reading proficiency rates within 5 years


4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

 85% of students graduating by 2022

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate


 5-year cohort graduation rate goal of 88%
 6-year cohort graduation rate goal of 90%

English Language Proficiency


 Accounts for students' initial grade and proficiency level in setting student goals with maximum of 5 years to attain proficiency

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of "Consistently Underperforming" Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

 Identifies schools based on achievement gaps in reading and math between one or more student subgroups and students outside that subgroup

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

 4-year cohort graduation rate

★ BONUS


Goals tied to comprehensive workforce-readiness strategy called "Route 66"

! CONCERN


Threshold for identification differs substantially among student subgroups

ACCOUNTABILITY


Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

 Disaggregates subgroups by race, ethnicity, income, English language proficiency, and disability status


N-Size

 No minimum for growth and proficiency


School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

 Chronic absenteeism, college and career readiness (to include college remediation and persistence rates), and "Opportunity-to-Learn Survey"; latter two are in development


High School Graduation Rate

 Gives triple the weight to 4-year cohort rate compared to 5-year cohort rate, and six times the weight to 4-year cohort rate compared to 6-year cohort rate


Weighting of Academic Indicators

 90% weight in all grades

Testing Participation Rates

 Enrolled but untested students count in denominator of participation rate calculation; schools that do not meet required 95% participation rate in reading or math will have their letter grades reduced by one grade

Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance

 Subgroups are not explicitly included in rating system, and growth of students in lowest quartile accounts for only 15% of a school's rating

NOTE

Reporting n-size of 20 to protect student privacy

Note: Some indicators do not apply to some states and, consequently, do not appear in the analysis included on the front of this document. The Alliance for Excellent Education set the parameters associated with the green, yellow, and red designations.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

- Green: 75% or more of all students proficient on statewide assessments by 2030 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Yellow: 60–74.9% of all students proficient by 2030 or 75% or more proficient by 2031–39 or equivalently rigorous goal
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

- Green: Same long-term goals for each subgroup or similarly ambitious commitment to closing achievement gaps
- Yellow: Less ambitious goals but requires higher rates of growth from lower-performing subgroups
- Red: Same or similar rates of academic growth for all subgroups

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: 90% or more of students graduating by 2030
- Yellow: 85–89.9% of students graduating by 2030 or 90% or more graduating by 2031–39
- Red: Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- Green: At least 3 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Yellow: 1–2 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- Red: Goals are the same or state does not set goals for each cohort rate

English Language Proficiency

- Green: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level in setting student targets with maximum timeline of no more than 6 years to achieve proficiency
- Yellow: Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level with maximum timeline of 7 years to achieve proficiency
- Red: Does not account for initial age/grade or proficiency level and/or sets maximum timeline of 8 or more years to achieve proficiency

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

- Green: State does not use super-subgroup or uses it only in addition to disaggregated subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support
- Red: State uses super-subgroups instead of required subgroups for school ratings and/or identifying schools for support

N-Size

- Green: N-size for accountability of 15 or fewer students
- Yellow: N-size for accountability of 16–25 students
- Red: N-size for accountability of 26 or more students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

- Green: Evidence-based statewide SQSS measures are disaggregated by student subgroup
- Yellow: Inconclusive evidence for SQSS measures or significant measures are in development but still statewide and disaggregated by student subgroup
- Red: No evidence for SQSS measures and/or not statewide or disaggregated by student subgroup

High School Graduation Rate

- Green: Exclusively uses or gives more weight to 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: Uses 4- and extended-year cohort rates and weights 4-year rate equally or less than other rates
- Red: Does not use 4-year cohort rate or uses another unlawful graduation rate calculation

Weighting of Academic Indicators

- Green: 75% or more weight on academic indicators
- Yellow: 50–74% weight on academic indicators
- Red: Less than 50% weight on academic indicators or weight is unclear in plan

Testing Participation Rates

- Green: No credit for untested students or similarly rigorous consequences
- Yellow: Less rigorous consequences that have limited implications for accountability
- Red: Does not specify consequences for untested students

Inclusion of Subgroup Performance

- Green: Schools receive lower rating if they have a struggling subgroup or subgroup performance is an independent and substantial portion of rating index
- Yellow: Subgroups have lesser but still meaningful effect on a school's rating
- Red: Subgroups have little to no effect on a school's rating

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of “Consistently Underperforming” Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

- Green: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 2 or fewer indicators
- Yellow: Definition is meaningfully different from “low performing” and triggers targeted intervention based on 3 or more indicators
- Red: Definition is not meaningfully different from statutory definition of “low performing” or does not comply with ESSA

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

- Green: 4-year cohort graduation rate
- Yellow: 5-year cohort graduation rate
- Red: 6-year (or longer) cohort graduation rate