

# ESSA

Every Student Succeeds Act



## Minnesota State Plan

Minnesota Department of  
**Education**

### ESSA basics

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the nation's latest pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education law, was signed into law in December 2015. ESSA is the newest version of the 50-year-old federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and replaces the 2001 reauthorization known as No Child Left Behind. ESSA emphasizes equity and gives states and schools more latitude to innovate, while maintaining a focus on accountability and an emphasis on state and local systems of improvement.

The Minnesota Department of Education will work closely with stakeholders to ensure Minnesota's students, educators, schools and districts experience a clear and orderly transition to the new law.

### What ESSA means for Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Education must submit a plan outlining Minnesota's strategy to implement ESSA's requirements for assessments, accountability and supports based on community and educator input. ESSA allows us to ask the question: How can we build on our successes and make improvements so that our system works better for every student, regardless of their background?

We are committed to maintaining an education system that works to close achievement and opportunity gaps, improves teaching and learning, boosts the graduation rate, improves and transforms underperforming schools, and ensures high-quality educational leadership. Opportunities in ESSA and state law will guide the department's focus on these important goals.

### Timeline

**December 2015:**  
Every Student Succeeds Act signed into law.

**April - May 2016:** Topical informational meetings.

**March 2017:** Submit Minnesota State Plan to U.S. Department of Education.

**August - December 2016:** Committees convene.

Dec. 2015   Jan. 2016   Feb. 2016   March 2016   April 2016   May 2016   June 2016   July 2016   Aug. 2016   Sept. 2016   Oct. 2016   Nov. 2016   Dec. 2016   Jan. 2017   Feb. 2017   March 2017

**January - November 2016:** Stakeholder meetings and public feedback on State Plan.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will engage stakeholder groups and the public in conversations around ESSA implementation in Minnesota. Feedback will be gathered and incorporated into plan development.

**October 2016 - January 2017:** State Plan preparation.

MDE will draw on educator and stakeholder expertise to create Minnesota's State Plan for implementing ESSA.

**February 2017:** Finalize State Plan.

## How the community can get involved in Minnesota's ESSA plan

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will be holding meetings in communities around the state summer through winter 2016 to engage the community in locations and at times that are varied and convenient. Visit <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/ESSA> for the current schedule of conversations.

Additionally, you can call **651-582-8800** or send your thoughts to [mde.essa@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.essa@state.mn.us) or to:  
**Minnesota Department of Education, 1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113**

We need your input so that our plan will ensure that all students, regardless of background, get the best possible education. To engage in the social media conversation, follow [@MnDeptEd](https://twitter.com/MnDeptEd) and use the hashtag [#ESSAOutreachMN](https://twitter.com/ESSAOutreachMN) on Twitter.

## What is ESSA?

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 includes many protections for vulnerable students. It creates tools and opportunities for parents, communities and other advocates to continue to support equity and accountability for all students.

## Breaking down the key points:

1. Eliminating disparities and creating opportunities for better student outcomes.

2. Academic standards that align with college entrance requirements and prepare students for the working world.

3. Annual testing to provide data on how students are performing in school.

4. Reporting data to the public on outcomes and opportunities for all students.

5. Statewide accountability systems that include gap-closing goals for student outcomes, ratings based on the progress of all students and each group of students, and the expectation of action when any school has low performance or low graduation rates.



6. State strategies to intervene and support low-performing and high-poverty schools.

7. Addressing inequitable access to effective, in-field and experienced teachers.

