



## ESSA

A PEATC  
Do You Know  
Factsheet for Virginia's Parents

### Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)

- Signed into law on December 15, 2015
- Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)
- Replaces the most recent ESEA amendment, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)
- "...to ensure every child achieves
- Congress has issued non-binding guidance on spending federal dollars

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# Do You Know

## The funding in ESSA for Healthy, Safe, and Well Rounded Students?

The Every Child Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) replaces the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Under ESSA, the States and Districts are given more leeway as to how federal dollars are to be spent on education. This reduces the role of federal oversight by giving power back to the states to make decisions about appropriate spending and to have greater flexibility in setting their own academic performance targets and effective interventions.

To help, Congress created a block grant called the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program. 95% of the federal funds must go to the districts in each state but the state develop the application for the funds, thus influencing their decisions on how to spend the money.

On October 21, 2016, Congress released a non-binding guidance on how the funds are to be spent and other spending regulations.

### Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program

Districts that get more than \$30,000 are told to spend in the following manner:

- 20% of Title IV funds to activities to develop well-rounded students (i.e. music, the arts, foreign languages, college and career counseling.)
- 20% of Title IV funds toward student health and safety (i.e. include school-based mental health services, nutrition and physical education, bullying and harassment prevention, and school personnel crisis management training, among other activities.)
- No more than 15% of Title IV funds can be used for technology infrastructure
- Districts have option to partner with post-secondary institutions
- Additional activities may be funded based on a district's needs assessment.
- Requires state plans to show how they are improving conditions for learning, including reducing bullying and harassment and addressing adverse behavioral interventions that compromise student health and safety

Districts that get less than \$30,000 do not need to meet the requirements per the guidance.

## ESSA Funding for Teacher Effectiveness

- Changes the Title II formula to 20% based on school age population and 80% based on school-age population living in poverty, phased in over four years.
- Maintains Teacher Quality Partnership Grants and revises the Teacher Incentive Fund to include school leaders.
- Allows the use of Title II funds to reform certification systems; improve alternate routes to certification; and improve recruitment and retention of teachers, principals, and school leaders; among other activities.

## Additional ESSA Funding

- Allows 100% transferability between Title II (educator supports) and Title IV and from Titles II and IV into Title I.
- Authorizes (but does not appropriate) funding at gradually higher levels for four years.
- Authorizes the Institute of Education Sciences to study a Title I formula change that would reallocate funds based more heavily on poverty than population.

ESSA also eliminates the School Improvement Grant program but requires states to reserve 7% of Title I-A funds for school improvement activities, unless doing so results in a district receiving less Title I-A funding than in the previous year.

Allows districts to use federal funds for nonschoolwide programs if they can demonstrate that the method used to allocate funds ensures the school receives all of the state and local funds it would have received absent Title I-A funds.

## Title IV Funding Budget Consideration

Currently ESSA has recommended \$1.5 billion for the grant; however, there is conflict in how much money will actually fund it. Administration is asking \$500 million and a Senate panel wants \$300 million. A House panel is seeking \$1 billion but also is seeking to eliminate many programs. A decision on the budget will most likely not be finalized until after the election in November 2016.

More information can be found at:

[http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/siteASCD/policy/ESEA\\_NCLB\\_ComparisonChart\\_2015.pdf](http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/siteASCD/policy/ESEA_NCLB_ComparisonChart_2015.pdf)

<http://www.agile-ed.com/resources/marketing-hot-topics/245-how-the-every-student-succeeds-act-essa-will-impact-education-marketers>

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2016/10/essa\\_guidance\\_funding\\_healthy\\_well\\_rounded\\_students.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2016/10/essa_guidance_funding_healthy_well_rounded_students.html)



The contents of this factsheet were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H328M140013. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Julia Martin Eile.

