



Three years ago—on December 10, 2015—President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law.

Since then, all states developed—and the U.S. Department of Education approved—plans to comply with the law. As states put these plans into action, they are embracing the flexibility ESSA provides to lead the way on supporting their schools and students.

This week's newsletter highlights the progress states have made under ESSA to advance the law's goal to promote educational equity for all students.

Visit StatesLeading.org and follow #StatesLeading on social media to learn more and join the conversation.

State Spotlights



To meet ESSA requirements, the **Iowa** Department of Education developed a collaborative process to help focus attention and support on schools that need it most.

The state will now identify schools for support and improvement based on student participation on state assessments, academic achievement, student growth, and a student survey on safety, engagement, and overall environment.

This month, the Department is also publishing a new online report card, the Iowa School Performance Profiles, which shows how all public schools performed on the core accountability measures.

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The **New Mexico** Public Education Department is highlighted in this Alliance for Excellent Education resource for using the flexibility provided by ESSA to drive high-quality school improvement.

The state has a competitive process for allocating federal school improvement funds, and it has set aside 3 percent of Title I funds to expand access to advanced course work and better instructional opportunities.

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The **New Hampshire** Department of Education is scaling its cutting-edge Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE), a competency-based assessment that requires students to demonstrate proficiency on a given topic before moving forward.

With the flexibility under ESSA, this approach was designed to ensure that all students have meaningful opportunities to achieve critical knowledge and skills.

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Must Read



An affiliate of the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy

With ESSA, states have the opportunity to revise and enhance their state assessment systems to best meet their students' needs.

In this resource, the Hunt Institute breaks down which requirements have stayed the same and changed with ESSA, as well as new flexibilities that have emerged for states.

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Tools & Resources



In *Advancing Innovative Policy Solutions*, ExcelinEd explores how ESSA has created opportunities for states to innovate.

Highlighting states like **Indiana**, **Louisiana**, and **Colorado**, this resource provides examples of cutting-edge policies to enhance direct student services, education innovation research grants, and equity.

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NCSL compiled state efforts to align and address ESSA requirements through legislation in this new interactive database.

The tool includes nearly a thousand proposed and enacted bills related to ESSA. Users are able to review legislation by state or region, or by categories related to ESSA, such as accountability, school improvement, or effective instruction.

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This issue of NASBE's award-winning journal, *The State Education Standard*, looks at ways states can build upon their ESSA plans to ensure all students receive an excellent education and ensure the implementation of their plans keeps faith with the spirit of ESSA.

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We want to hear from you!

Send your state's stories or organization's resources to communications@ccsso.org



The States Leading campaign celebrates the progress states are making toward providing equitable education for all students through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and innovative policies in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

Thank you to our proud partners:

The Council of Chief State School Officers
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The National Association of State Boards of Education
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The Hunt Institute
The Foundation for Excellence in Education

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