

# The Every Student Succeeds Act: Overview and Implementation Timeline

Peter Zamora

Director of Federal Relations

Council of Chief State School Officers



# Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965



President Lyndon B. Johnson  
April 11, 1965

*“By passing this bill, we bridge the gap between helplessness and hope... We strengthen state and local agencies which bear the burden and the challenge of better education. And we rekindle the revolution--the revolution of the spirit against the tyranny of ignorance.*

# The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



President Barack Obama  
December 10, 2015

*“[T]his bill upholds the core value that animated the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act ... the value that says education, the key to economic opportunity, is a civil right. With this bill, we reaffirm that fundamental American ideal that every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live, deserves the chance to make out of their lives what they will.”*

# NCLB v. ESSA

## ⌘ ESSA preserves critical elements of No Child Left Behind...

- Standards
- Annual assessments
- Accountability
- Disaggregation by race, low-income, English Learner, Students with Disabilities
- Requirements to improve underperforming schools

## ⌘ ... but allows states and districts more flexibility to use these tools to better leverage federal funds to target student needs

- School improvement
- Teacher support and evaluation

# ESSA Assessments

- ⌘ Maintains annual testing requirements of NCLB
  - Grades 3-8 in language arts and mathematics; grade spans in science
  - Requires 95% participation all students and subgroups in schools
  - Continues federal funding for state assessments
- ⌘ Allows states to assess up to 1% of students with “most significant cognitive disabilities” using alternate tests aligned to alternate standards
- ⌘ Authorizes Computer Adaptive Tests
  - Provide grade-level proficiency and also more precise achievement information
- ⌘ Authorizes an Innovative Assessment Pilot
  - Up to 7 states may pilot new assessment approaches, including competency-based
- ⌘ Funds newly available to audit state and local assessment systems and reduce unnecessary or low-quality tests

# ESSA Accountability

- ⌘ Each statewide system will “meaningfully differentiate” schools using:
- Academic proficiency on annual state assessments
  - Graduation rates for high school
  - English Language Proficiency
  - Growth or another statewide academic indicator for K-8 schools
  - Not less than one other state-set indicator of school quality or student success
  - 95% assessment participation rate

# ESSA School Improvement

## ❖ **Comprehensive Support and Improvement:**

- Lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools on state accountability index;
- High schools with <67% graduation rates, and
- Schools with underperforming subgroups that do not improve after a state-determined number of years.

## ❖ **Targeted Support and Improvement:**

- Schools with consistently underperforming subgroups, as defined by the state.

**Specific school turnaround models no longer required;**

**States and districts must implement “evidence-based” improvement activities**



# Teacher Qualifications, Evaluation, and Equity

- ⌘ Eliminates “Highly Qualified Teacher” requirements;
- ⌘ Does not require specific educator evaluation measures or methods;
- ⌘ But requires state Title I plans to demonstrate how the state will ensure that “low-income and minority children enrolled in Title I schools are not served at disproportionate rates by ineffective, out-of-field and inexperienced” educators;
- ⌘ Authorizes funds that may be used for state evaluation systems (and/or 20 other state activities);
- ⌘ Authorizes the Teacher and Leader Incentive Program, a competitive grant to support innovative educator evaluation systems.

# Teacher and Leader Supports

- ⌘ ESSA authorizes federal funding for states to develop and implement:
- Reform of state certification, licensure and tenure systems;
  - Development and implementation of teacher evaluation and support systems;
  - Teacher and School Leader Academies (up to 2% of state's entire Title II allocation);
  - Activities to support principals (permissive 3% state Title II setaside); and
  - Many other state educator workforce priorities.

# USED Regulations Timeline

- ⌘ The U.S. Department of Education will issue implementing regulations for ESSA in 2016:
  - Two public hearings and initial public comments in January.
  - Negotiated Rulemaking Committee considered new proposed regulations on assessment and fiscal rules:
    - Consensus on assessments, no consensus on fiscal rules.
  - USED will publish proposed regulations for public comment in late spring or summer.

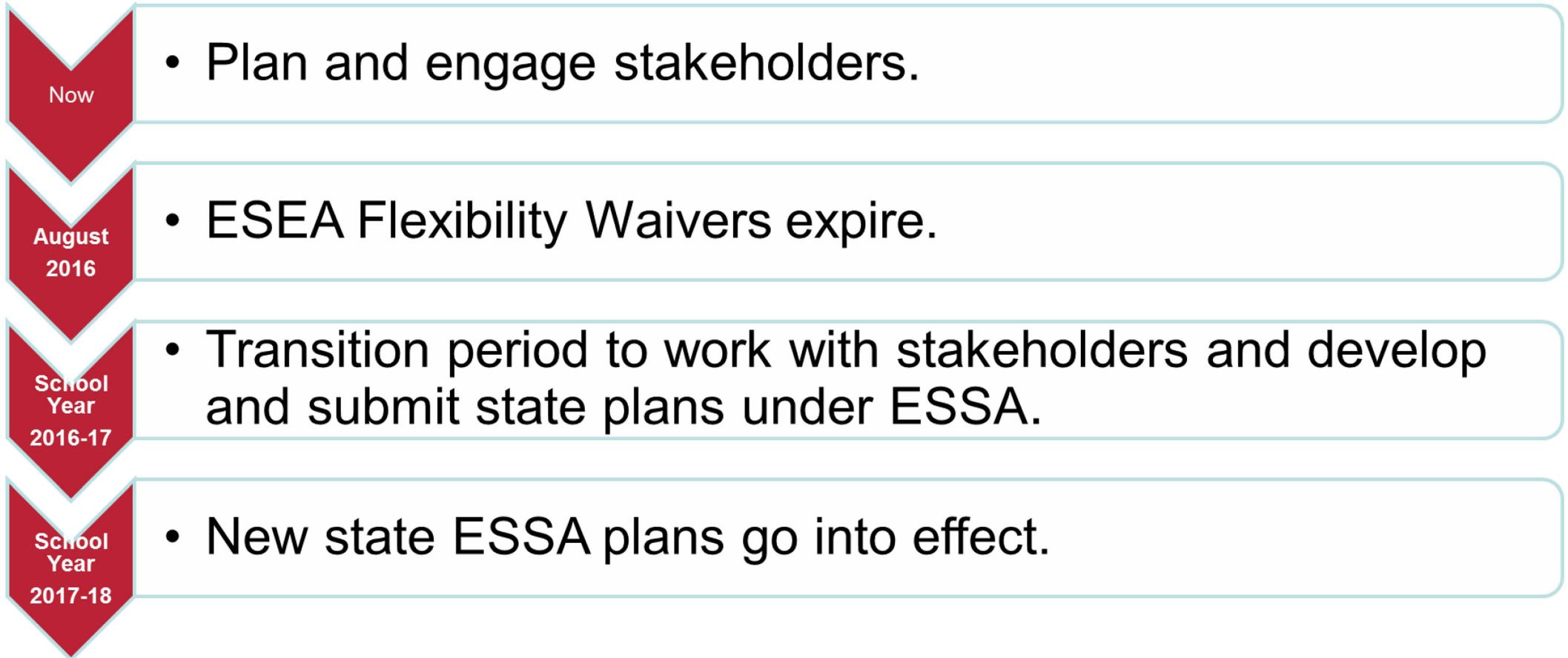
# USED Regulations for Public Comment

- ⌘ USED will publish proposed regulations for public comment in late spring or early summer. These will include:
  - Elements of negotiated rulemaking (assessments and fiscal issues)
  - Accountability
  - Reporting
  - State plans
  - Innovative Assessment Pilot
- ⌘ USED will consider comments and publish final regulations by end of 2016.

# Congressional Oversight of ESSA Implementation

- ⌘ Congress has held hearings already on ESSA implementation:
  - House Committee on Education and the Workforce:
    - Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, OK
  - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
    - Superintendent Tony Evers, WI
    - US Secretary John King
  
- ⌘ House and Senate education committees will each hold additional hearings as the process moves forward.

# Transition Timeline



# Taking Stock

- ⌘ During transition, states may evaluate current policies and refine comprehensive, coherent strategies using federal funds:
  - Engage stakeholders
  - Establish (or reassert) state vision for educating all students
  - Develop ESSA implementation strategies aligned with that vision
  - Ensure alignment across and between federal, state and local programs:
    - Teacher preparation – teacher evaluation – professional development
    - Accountability – school interventions – teacher preparation and support
    - State and local funds – federal programs
  - Build state capacity to deliver on state vision and strategies

# Resources

CCSSO ESSA Resources:

**<http://www.CCSSO.org/Resources/ESSA>**