

ESSA Notes



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Michigan's Approach to ESSA

Welcome to our inaugural edition of ESSA Notes, Michigan's newsletter about our ESSA State Plan development efforts. Look for this newsletter as a source of information regarding:

- Upcoming ESSA events.
- Key concepts and ideas that we are developing in our ESSA plan.
- Information on how to get involved.
- Interesting facts about Michigan's ESSA plan.

We want to keep all of our stakeholders informed about our ESSA state plan development, so here are a few key resources for you.

- MDE's ESSA Website at www.michigan.gov/essa. Go here to find information on the plan, archived ESSA notes, ESSA resources, and information on how to get involved.
- Sign up for our [ESSA listserv](#).
- If you don't already follow the Michigan Department of Education on Twitter (@mieducation) and Facebook (@michdepted), you should! We will be using those venues to share information about the ESSA plan as well.

Resources and Information

We have a few key resources on the website to which we would like to direct your attention:

- Our [ESSA Overview Powerpoint](#). This outlines big ideas for the development of Michigan's ESSA plan.
- Our [ESSA Timeline](#). We are in Phase 2 of plan development, focusing on generating ideas and initial concepts before our first round of stakeholder feedback.
- [Overview of our teaming structure](#). This is how we will be organizing our work.

Fact of the Week

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes and updates the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the country's national education law.

Contact Us: MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov or www.michigan.gov/essa

Stakeholder Engagement in ESSA

State Superintendent Brian Whiston values input from a broad range of stakeholders. Over 30 education stakeholder organizations and numerous individuals provided direction and ideas as the [plan to make Michigan a Top 10 state for education in the next 10 years](#) was developed. That feedback was incorporated into the goals and strategies that will guide the development of the state's ESSA Plan.

Going forward, we again will seek the active involvement of multiple stakeholders throughout the ESSA plan development process, from helping generate ideas and concepts that are important to address in the plan, to refining and finalizing those ideas.

There are four main ways in which stakeholders will be engaged:

1. Feedback during our stakeholder "listening tours." In July and October, the MDE will take our ESSA Plan ideas out for a listening tour, engaging stakeholders from the education community and the business community, parents, and community members.
2. ESSA External Advisory Committee. Leaders of key organizations, legislators and representatives from the Governor's office were invited to serve on an advisory committee for MDE. This committee will meet monthly to review ideas and concepts, provide guidance and feedback, and suggest changes or additions.
3. ESSA Action Teams. Action Teams are the "engine" of the plan development. These teams are tasked with moving from concepts and ideas to actual implementation plans. Membership on these teams will include both MDE and external subject matter experts. External members will include individuals from districts and schools, external experts in assessment, accountability, funding, school improvement; members of the State Board of Education; legislators or legislative aides; state agencies; and other interested individuals. Action teams meet weekly.
4. Online and virtual feedback. We want to keep a conversation going with many individuals and we are planning to use technology to do that. In addition to feedback opportunities on our website, we are forming two virtual focus groups:
 - a. Virtual Parent Focus Group. We want to know what parents think. We also know that it's hard for busy parents to come to in-person meetings in Lansing or even in their communities, so we created the Virtual Parent Focus Group. If you are a parent and want to be a part, please go to www.michigan.gov/essa, and click on the "Get Involved" link. We also encourage you to share this information with other parents in your networks. We will be providing information through this focus group, generating feedback through surveys, online chats, web-based feedback forms, etc.
 - b. Virtual Teacher Focus Group. Much like parents, teachers are a critical voice to have in the plan development. We are recruiting teachers to sign up for our Virtual Teacher Focus Group as well, at www.michigan.gov/essa, click on "Get Involved."

Immediate Timeline

Right now, we are forming the External Advisory Committee and the Action Teams and doing the early stages of plan development. We are targeting a round of stakeholder feedback for July 2016. If your organization would like to be part of the "listening tour" in July, and have a presentation, participate in a focus group, or otherwise provide feedback, please let us know through the "Get Involved" button at www.michigan.gov/essa.

Questions? Please contact us at MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov anytime!

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