

# ESSA Notes



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## Michigan’s Draft ESSA Plan Available for Public Comment

Michigan’s ESSA plan is drafted and open for public comment through **March 16, 2017**. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced the draft plan in a February 14, 2017 [press release](#) inviting members of the public to provide feedback. All public input will be reviewed and considered by MDE staff before Michigan’s final plan is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for their review. The MDE expects to submit Michigan’s ESSA plan by the April 3, 2017 deadline.

- [Michigan’s ESSA Consolidated Plan – Draft for Public Comment \(2.14.17\)](#)
- [Overview of Michigan ESSA Consolidated Plan Draft \(2.14.17\)](#)
- Additional supporting documents:
  - » [Stakeholder Engagement Activities in the Development of Michigan ESSA Plan Draft \(2.14.17\)](#) – a summary of public engagement efforts that informed the development of Michigan’s ESSA Plan
  - » [Presentation to State Board of Education regarding Michigan ESSA Consolidated Plan Draft \(2.14.17\)](#)
  - » [Michigan ESSA Consolidated Plan Draft-Master Slide Deck \(2.14.17\)](#) – a comprehensive PowerPoint about Michigan’s ESSA Plan

## Public Comment

Individuals and organizations are invited to review the plan and submit comments through the following channels:

- Email comments to [MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov)
- Mail comments to ESSA State Plan Comments, Michigan Department of Education, Office of the State Superintendent, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909

All comments must arrive at MDE **no later than close of business on March 16, 2017**. The MDE requests that comments reflecting the official position of a group or organization be provided on organization letterhead, indicating specific areas of support or concern with various aspects of the plan.

## ESSA FACTS.....

ESSA’s Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant is a flexible new “block grant” that officially eliminates the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program and consolidates more than 20 competitive grant programs previously authorized under No Child Left Behind.

Contact Us: [MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov) or [www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa)

## House Education Reform Committee Testimony on ESSA

Deputy Superintendent Venessa Keesler recently testified at a meeting of the February 16, 2017 House Education Reform Committee, where she provided an update on the State’s draft ESSA plan and public comment period. You can view her recorded testimony at <http://www.house.mi.gov/MHRPublic/videoarchive.aspx>.

Dr. Keesler’s testimony begins at 0:50:15 in the recorded video and follows testimony by Christy Hovanetz, Senior Policy Advisor with ExcelinEd, who presented an overview of ESSA and school accountability research.

## States Watching for New ESSA Guidance

In a recent letter to chief state school officers, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos emphasized that states should continue to follow the timeline for developing and submitting their plans for review and approval, building on the work they have already completed. The Department promised further guidance on the state plan requirements by March 13, 2017. The full letter can be found [here](#).

# Questions from the Field

### How do you define a subgroup?

ESSA maintains the requirement for data disaggregation for accountability purposes for the following subgroups: race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, disability, and English language learners (ELLs). ESSA also adds three new subgroups for data reporting, but not accountability purposes: homeless status, students with a parent in the military, and students in foster care.

### Will the minimum subgroup size change under ESSA?

No; Michigan has been using a subgroup N-size of 30 for accountability purposes under No Child Left Behind, and is proposing to keep it the same under ESSA. Reporting for transparency purposes has used an N-size of 10, which will remain the same under ESSA as well.

### If my student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and is also a member of another subgroup (economically disadvantaged, African-American, etc.), how will s/he be counted for accountability and reporting purposes? Do schools get to choose the subgroup in which to report that student?

Students count in *any and all* appropriate subgroups; this has been Michigan’s accountability practice for more than 15 years. In other words, the student in your example would be reported in both the subgroup of students with special needs and the subgroup of students who are African-American.

# What's Happening Now

- Michigan’s ESSA plan is drafted and open for public comment through March 16, 2017. The plan and all supporting documents, including a plan overview, can be found at the ESSA web page at [www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa).