

ESSA Notes



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Back-to-School ESSA Updates

Since early summer, the Michigan Department of Education has been working with educators, legislators, advocacy groups, parents, and other community members to draft initial plans to meet the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Earlier editions of ESSA Notes have highlighted Michigan's approach to ESSA planning (see [June 2 issue](#)), stakeholder engagement strategies, ESSA Action Team descriptions (see [August 3 issue](#)), and early results of the first round of stakeholder feedback to the Action Teams' initial key ideas (see [August 11 issue](#)).

The first round of stakeholder feedback ended August 16 with the close of the online public survey on the state's early ideas for implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). More than 1,100 individuals from across Michigan responded to the survey, although not all respondents answered all sections. More than 80 percent of participants identified themselves as "educators"; the rest identified as "parents" (9.7 percent), "community members" (8.5 percent) "employers" (.62 percent), or "students" (.18 percent).

The ESSA [External Advisory Committee](#) and [Tactical Review Committee](#) have reviewed preliminary responses to the public survey and provided their input. Several staff members from U.S. Department of Education (ED) Office of State Support observed a portion of the External Advisory Committee meeting and complimented Michigan's stakeholder engagement efforts.

Survey Highlights

- Nearly 68 percent of respondents favor **waiting until the 2018-19** school year to implement changes to the state assessment system.
- When it comes to adding an innovative testing element to the state's assessment system, respondents say it is "very important" or "important" to test students' **problem-solving skills** (89 percent) and **critical thinking skills** (85.5 percent).
- The vast majority of respondents agree that the state's **most intensive, hand-on support should go to schools showing the lowest performance and growth.**

ESSA FACTS

"Parent and family engagement" replaces "parental involvement" in ESSA. The role of parent and community is more important than ever in ESSA.

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

Stakeholder Feedback Summary Reports Available

The ESSA Action Teams have provided summaries of survey results for their areas of focus, and have described how the data will inform the next phase of the team's work. Click the links below to review each team's summaries.

- [Accountability System - Technical](#)
 - *Combined with:* Additional Indicator of School Quality and Transparency Dashboard
- [Assessment Implementation](#)
- [Innovative Assessment Pilot](#)
- [Supports](#)
- [Teacher and Leader Quality](#)
- [Using Data to Inform Instruction and Leadership](#)

(The Communication and Outreach and Fiscal teams have no survey data to report at this time.)

Next Steps:

Action Teams have reconvened and will meet throughout September and early October to draft a second round of recommendations for how Michigan will implement the ESSA federal law. Second-round recommendations will incorporate survey feedback, research, and additional team discussion to provide more detail on Michigan's planned implementation and how it will affect schools, families, and communities. Stakeholders will again be invited to give feedback on the round-two recommendations sometime in mid-October.

Resources

The [USED ESSA Resource Page](#) includes a growing collection of memos, fact sheets, and recent updates on the federal rule-making process related to ESSA. Recent additions include guidance on students who are **homeless** or in **foster care**, overviews of proposed regulations around ESSA implementation provisions, and much more.

What's Happening Now

Last week, the MDE submitted public comment and feedback on the U.S. Department of Education's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in two areas of ESSA:

- [Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority](#). The MDE addressed four areas in the proposed rules: Definition of "Demonstration Authority Period" and Timeline to Implement, definition of the baseline year, *individual* assessment versus assessment *system* requirements, and the definition of comparability.
- [Title I – Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged – Academic Assessments](#). Comments addressed Proposed Regulations pertaining to ESSA Statute 1111(b)(2)(D) – Alternate Assessment Aligned with Alternate Academic Achievement Standards for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities.

MDE's ESSA Action Teams are reviewing survey feedback, conducting further research, and drafting more detailed and nuanced plans for Michigan's implementation of the new federal law.

Supplement Not Supplant - On September 6, U.S. Department of Education (ED) published in the Federal Register [proposed regulations](#) for implementing the ESSA Title I requirement that federal funds **must supplement, and may not supplant**, state and local funds. The ED has also made available a [fact sheet](#) outlining the proposed regulations, which are now open for public comment through November 7. MDE encourages members of the public to review this information and participate in the public comment period as they see fit. If you or your organization submits comments to ED, please consider also sharing that input with us at MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov, to help inform our work in this area.

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