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ESSA Plan Overview Now Available in Spanish and Arabic

Spanish and Arabic translations of the Overview of Michigan’s ESSA Consolidated Plan Draft are now available on the [Michigan ESSA website \(www.michigan.gov/essa\)](#). The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is also working with partners to expand outreach to Arabic and Spanish language speakers. If you know of stakeholders who could benefit from this resource, please forward this newsletter and help us spread the word.

REMINDER – Public Comment on Michigan’s Draft ESSA Plan Closing Soon

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. This public comment period closes on **March 16, 2017**.

All public input received during our comment period 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.

Click the links below to view an overview and Michigan’s ESSA Consolidated Plan:

- [Overview of Michigan ESSA Consolidated Plan Draft \(2.14.17\)](#)
- [Michigan’s ESSA Consolidated Plan – Draft for Public Comment \(2.14.17\)](#)
- [NEW! Overview of ESSA Consolidated Plan now available in Spanish and Arabic](#)

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ESSA FACTS.....

Districts and public school academies receiving Title III will report to states (every second year) on the programs and activities carried out with Title III funds and on the number or percentage of ELs who are making progress and proficiency in achieving English proficiency, and meeting state academic standards. § 3121(a)(1-7) EL student proficiency and progress are also a component of the annual accountability system.

Public Comment

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

- email comments to: <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.

Updated: Frequently Asked Questions about Michigan's Draft ESSA Plan

The Michigan Department of Education has developed a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document to answer stakeholder questions around Michigan's ESSA Plan. This FAQ document was recently updated to reflect clarifications and new questions arising from the public comment process. The [FAQ](#) provides answers to questions around four key areas in the ESSA Plan:

- Supports for Schools and Students
- Educator Quality
- Accountability
- Assessment

Resources

Evidence for ESSA Website: The Center for Research and Reform in Education (CRRE) at Johns Hopkins University has released a new website called [Evidence for ESSA](http://www.evidenceforessa.org/) (<http://www.evidenceforessa.org/>). This free web-based resource provides easy access to information on programs that meet the evidence standards defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The website is designed for education leaders at the state, district, and school levels, to provide information to state chiefs, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and anyone else interested in which programs meet the ESSA evidence standards.

School improvement funding requires that programs meet one of the top three categories and seven other competitive grants provide bonus points if applications promise to implement programs in the top three categories. Other ESSA provisions encourage using research-based programs and practices.

CRRE considers Evidence for ESSA a complement to the What Works Clearinghouse and CRRE's own Best Evidence Encyclopedia. Both sites offer reviews of education research though not specifically using ESSA evidence criteria.

Questions from the Field.....

How does the state's ESSA planning around teacher and leader quality fit with the regional plan for educator evaluations?

ESSA doesn't require educator evaluations, but state law does. Both processes should be a part of the district's Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) process and should work together.

When it comes to measuring school climate or culture, will the state be reviewing models and tools?

Yes, we encourage you to share examples of those you think work well. You can comment and add examples through our dedicated ESSA email address: mde-essa@michigan.gov.

Michigan's ESSA Plan for school accountability proposes to include a student growth metric using student growth percentiles. What is a student growth percentile?

Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) represent one powerful way to quantify the learning of individual students over one or more years. Conceptually, SGPs communicate the degree to which a student has

learned in a particular domain, compared to a group of academic peers who had a comparable score on the previous test (or multiple previous tests) in that subject.

In order to calculate SGPs, students are grouped with academic peers throughout the state who had comparable score patterns on past tests. Students in each academic peer group are then ordered based on their score on the current year test. Each student then receives a percentile rank, compared to their academic peers.

Like other percentile scores, SGPs range from 0-99, where a SGP of 50 indicates that the student demonstrated growth in the content area equal or greater to half of students with comparable score histories on that subject-matter test.

The MDE has more [resources on student growth](http://www.michigan.gov/baa-accountability) on the [MDE Accountability web page](http://www.michigan.gov/baa-accountability) (www.michigan.gov/baa-accountability).

What's Happening Now.....

- ◆ The State Board of Education (SBE) will hear a presentation at its March 14, 2017 meeting describing public comment to date on Michigan's ESSA Plan. For more information and to view the meeting agenda, please visit the [SBE web page](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe) (www.michigan.gov/sbe).
- ◆ Michigan's ESSA plan remains 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](http://www.michigan.gov/essa) (www.michigan.gov/essa).