

**The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):
Pennsylvania's Proposed Consolidated State Plan
September 2017 Update**

[Review the Consolidated State Plan](#) (PDF)

[PowerPoint Guide to the Plan](#) (PDF)

[Webinar Guide to the Plan](#) (YouTube)

What does ESSA mean for Pennsylvania?

New flexibility for:

- Identifying fairer, more valid ways to measure school performance
- Determining how to best support schools identified as needing improvement
- Accelerating important reforms already underway
- Moving state education policy away from a strict focus on compliance, and toward the establishment of rigorous expectations for all students

Plan is aligned to Pa's Education Vision

Underscores the importance of:

- Investments in education funding
- Comprehensive measures of school success
- High-quality early childhood education
- Investment in great teachers and leaders
- Growth in STEM innovation and capacity
- Expansion of pathways to postsecondary success
- Support for Community Schools

Section 1: Long-term Goals

Academic proficiency goal: Cut in half the percentage of non-proficient students on PSSAs and Keystone Exams by 2030

- Applies to all students and each subgroup

Graduation rate goal: Cut in half the percentage of students who fail to graduate

- Applies to all students and subgroups
- Seeks to use greater of four-year and five-year cohort rate

English Learner proficiency goal: Growth in scale score toward attainment of English proficiency as measured by ACCESS for ELLs assessment

Section 2: Consultation and Performance Management

- Ensure diversity of perspectives from education stakeholders (parents and families, educators, legislators, community leaders, education advocates, researchers, experts, and others)
- Specify the system for collection and approval of consolidated LEA plans
- Describe the Department's protocol to monitor LEA compliance with ESSA requirements

Section 3: Academic Assessments

- PDE will reduce the testing time for PSSAs in both English language arts and Mathematics, effective spring 2018
- As ESSA requires states to develop additional assessment for these students, PDE is not currently pursuing exception to eliminate double testing for 8th grade math assessment

- PA will continue to provide side-by-side assessment materials in Spanish

Section 4: Accountability, Support and Improvement

- Ensure fair, transparent, and appropriate accountability determinations
- Shift focus from prescription to appropriate flexibility and support
- Align state and federal reporting

Four indicators mandated by the statute:

- Proficiency: Percentage Proficient/Advanced in English language arts and Mathematics on state assessments
- Academic Progress: Growth calculations derived from PVAAS,* which measures whether students gain, maintain, or decline in academic performance
- Graduation Rate: Percentage of students who earn a high school diploma in four (or five) or fewer years
- English Learner proficiency: Growth in scale score toward attainment of English proficiency as measured by ACCESS for ELLs assessment

Additional school quality and student success indicators chosen by Pennsylvania:

- Career readiness benchmark: Percentage of students who demonstrate engagement in career exploration and preparation, with individualized career plans through specific measures by grades 5, 8, and 11
- Chronic absenteeism: Percentage of students who have missed more than 10 percent of school days in the academic year; or approximately 18 days in a 180-day school year

Section 5: Supporting Excellent Educators

- Reaffirm commitment to educational equity provisions in ESEA
- Focus attention on: o PA's educator workforce pipeline including concerns about teacher shortages
- Supports for PA's existing teacher preparation programs
- Rigorous and effective alternative routes to certification
- Improved data quality and stronger partnerships between LEAs and preparing institutions and programs

Section 6: Supporting All Students

- Identifies Pennsylvania's key strategies for ensuring all students have access to well rounded, robust educational opportunities
- Describes models for school-based supports and community partnerships
- Focuses on supports for students during important transitions

PDE Statement about PSSA ELA Test Reduction:

Pennsylvania plans to reduce the ELA 3-8 PSSA assessment from four to three sections. This will take effect with PSSA testing in 2018. The mode-specific writing prompt has been removed and the number of language multiple choice items has been reduced. PDE will post the revised ELA test blueprint when finalized.