



FACTSHEET

ESSA

UPDATED 7/7/17



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a reauthorization of federal education law, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is a welcome change that provides states with more flexibility than its No Child Left Behind (NCLB) predecessor. Hawai'i is taking advantage of this flexibility by organizing our federal plans to support our state's goals and priorities as stated in (1) The Governor's Blueprint for Public Education 2017, which frames our state's aspirational goals for equity and excellence for our students; and (2) The Board of Education (BOE) and Department of Education's (HIDOE) joint Strategic Plan, 2017-2020 — approved unanimously by the BOE on Dec. 6, 2016 — which is our action plan to support the success of every public school student.

The revised Strategic Plan builds upon innovations, successes and progress from the last few years and the ideas shared during the 2016 Strategic Plan outreach, while making needed changes to support our students and educators effectively and to encourage creative solutions for our toughest challenges. The Strategic Plan update informs the BOE and HIDOE's priorities for action and resources in the next few years, including meeting the federal requirements of ESSA.

HIDOE posted a draft of the ESSA Plan for public comment during April 18-May 18, 2017 and presented a summary of the comments received to the BOE on June 6, 2017. On June 20, 2017, the BOE approved submission of the ESSA plan to the Governor for his review and to the U.S. Department of Education thereafter. The ESSA law requires full implementation of the federal requirements during the 2017-18 school year.

ESSA is one of the federal laws impacting public education in Hawai'i. Others are the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act (Title IX, Civil Rights Act), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, and the National School Lunch Act.

Hawai'i's education budget is 14 percent funded by a variety of federal funds including ESSA.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- ESSA requires that states adopt challenging standards in reading, math and science that prepare students for college requirements and employer expectations.
- The Hawaii Common Core for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Math (implemented fully in 2013-14), and Next Generation Science Standards (to be implemented fully by 2019), meet this requirement.

ASSESSMENTS

- ESSA requires that states assess students annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school in reading and math; once in grades 3-5, 6-8, and 10-12 in science; and in English language proficiency.
- Through 2020, Hawai'i plans to meet ESSA requirements with the Smarter Balanced Assessments in ELA and Math; the Hawai'i State Science Assessment; the WIDA ACCESS test of English language proficiency for English learners; and the Kaipuni Assessment of Educational Outcomes (KĀ'EO) in language arts, mathematics, and science — as KĀ'EO assessments are developed and validated — for students enrolled in the Hawaiian language immersion program (Ka Papahana Kaiapuni).
- ESSA requires that at least 95% of students in identified grades be tested annually. When students do not take the required assessments, less information is available to measure progress, and federal funding is jeopardized.
- Hawai'i's students take the minimum number of statewide tests required by the federal government. While not required, schools may also administer the ACT to all grade 11 students at no cost to students to expand their college opportunities.
- HIDOE continues to review the assessments required as part of its Hawaii State Assessment Program.

ACCOUNTABILITY & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- ESSA provides states more flexibility in reporting school performance than NCLB's test-based measure of Adequate Yearly Progress. Under ESSA, state-defined school accountability is expanded beyond test proficiency to require other measures including growth or other academic measure, graduation rate, English language proficiency, and school quality or other measure of student success.
- HIDOE has refocused Strive HI from ranking and rating schools to providing critical information about student success for educators, parents and community members to take action to improve student learning.
- To support our schools striving for equity and excellence, HIDOE will report student performance for different student characteristics relevant to our state as well as required by ESSA, such as students who are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, or homeless or students with military parents.
- Based on federal indicators, schools with the most struggling students and groups of struggling students of different demographic characteristics will be identified for support and improvement.

TEACHERS & EVALUATIONS

- ESSA eliminates the federal requirement that educators' evaluations be tied to test scores. In March 2016, the BOE eliminated the requirement of test scores as a mandatory measure of student learning and growth for teachers' performance evaluation while maintaining that teachers' evaluation still include other measures of student learning and growth.
- ESSA makes changes to the provisions of NCLB that dealt with the definition of "Highly Qualified Teacher" but still requires states to ensure that teachers are qualified for their teaching assignment. Hawai'i's ESSA plan describes multiple ways for teachers to demonstrate competence in the subject matter that they teach.

Send your ESSA feedback to ESSA@notes.k12.hi.us • Learn more about Hawai'i's ESSA Plan: bit.ly/HIDOE-ESSA