

What ESSA Means to Parents/ Guardians

- Parents or guardians receive information regarding ESSA each year.
- If your child's teacher does not meet the Federal definition of "highly qualified," you will receive written notification.
- The Superintendent makes an annual report to the Board of Education and public each October regarding the District's progress in student achievement.
- Starting in Grade 3, parents or guardians receive annual reports on individual student progress and performance on standardized tests.
- The [NJ School Performance Report](#) provides information about each school.
- The Comprehensive Support Network (CSN), provided through the NJ Department of Education is a resource that will work with schools needing support. These schools are identified through results on standardized assessments.

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September 2019

Every Student Succeeds Act in South Brunswick:

A Parent's Guide to Understanding the Federal Law of ESSA

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in New Jersey



District Mission Statement: *The South Brunswick School District will prepare students to be lifelong learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators and wise decision makers. This will be accomplished through the use of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and/or the Common Core State Standards (CCCS) at all grade levels. The schools will maintain an environment that promotes intellectual challenge, creativity, social and emotional growth and the healthy physical development of each student.*

The mission of South Brunswick School District has always been to ensure that no child is left behind. This initiative is evident in the District's goals for academic achievement. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) legislation puts into law South Brunswick's ongoing belief system.

What follows is an informational piece that breaks down the ESSA into understandable terms for those unfamiliar with the provisions of the law.

About the Law

On December 10, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) into law. ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 “to ensure that every child achieves.”

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. The purpose of ESEA, as reauthorized by ESSA, is to provide all students the opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.

ESSA State Plan Requirements

Under ESSA states are required to:

- Establish state standards, set academic goals, and assess progress toward those goals for all students and schools.
- Identify and support schools in need of improvement.
- Measure and report performance of all students, schools and districts.
- Support all students, educators, schools and districts.

Standards, Academic Goals & Progress

States must establish challenging state standards for what all students must achieve each year in school including English language proficiency for English Learners (EL). New Jersey's Student Learning Standards and WIDA standards meet the ESSA requirements.

Under ESSA, States must annually assess students' progress toward achieving the states' challenging statewide standards. New Jersey's current assessments program meets ESSA requirements.

ESSA requires states to set a long-term goal for academic achievement, graduation rate, and progress toward English language proficiency that is the same for all schools.

New Jersey proposes that by 2030, for all students and all subgroups:

- The percentage of students meeting or exceeding all grade-level expectations on statewide assessments in ELA and math will increase to 80%.
- 95% of students will graduate from high school in four years, and 96% will graduate in five years.
- 85% of English Learners will make expected progress towards English language proficiency.

Identify and support schools in need of

improvement. States must use the ESSA accountability system to identify schools in need of “comprehensive support and improvement” (overall low performance) and “targeted support and improvement” (low subgroup performance). In addition, states must define “consistently underperforming” under Targeted Support and Improvement.

Measure and report performance of all students, schools and districts. *Under ESSA, states must produce yearly report cards that explain the state accountability system and report on many new data elements. NJDOE will make significant enhancements to performance reports beginning this year in order to provide user-friendly yet robust information to empower communities.*

Under ESSA, states must show academic Progress for Elementary and Middle School, progress toward English Language Proficiency and at least one additional indicator of school quality or student success. Student growth percentiles (SGP) are currently reported in our school performance reports and show academic progress by demonstrating a student's growth compared to their academic peers, or students with similar prior test scores. Starting in school year 2017-2018 all English learners must demonstrate growth of approximately one level on the ACCESS for ELLs test per year for a maximum of 5 years. The NJDOE selected chronic absenteeism as the additional indicator.

Support all students, educators, schools and districts. The New Jersey ESSA State Plan breaks down supports into three main categories: supporting students, supporting educators and supporting districts.