



What is ESSA?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a law administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that requires all states to develop educational accountability measurements for all public K-12 schools nationally. ESSA replaced the previous No Child Left Behind Act and required all 50 states and the District of Columbia to create state plans to measure individual schools' success at preparing students for college and/or careers. In the District, that means developing an accountability system for DC public and charter schools that demonstrates how well schools are performing, using academic performance and other factors.

What information is required for all state ESSA plans?

- All public K-12 schools must document academic achievement, as measured by state standardized test scores in English and math;
- Elementary and middle schools ratings must indicate how they measure growth, both overall and for specific groups of students;
- High schools must publish their progress toward proficiency and improving four-year graduation rates.

How did the District create its state plan? What's in it?

The DC State Board of Education (SBOE) worked with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to create a plan to improve educational outcomes for all students across the city. In early 2017, the SBOE and OSSE held community meetings in all eight wards to gather feedback on what accountability measures parents, students, and other education stakeholders deemed important. This feedback was incorporated into the plan that the State Superintendent submitted to the State Board. The Board voted to approve the proposed plan, and the U.S. Department of Education accepted the District's strategy for improving statewide academic performance on August 30, 2017.

DC's ESSA plan explains the District's plans to improve and measure student proficiency and growth across the city, support special needs, at-risk students, and English language learner (ELL) students, and offer mentoring and other services in the city's lowest achieving schools. To review the District's ESSA plan, go to osse.dc.gov/essa.

What happens next?

The SBOE ESSA Task Force, led by Ward 4 representative Dr. Lannette Woodruff, has assembled 29 educators, parents, administrators, and other education stakeholders. SBOE is leading the work on ESSA compliance, representing all eight wards of the city, in collaboration with OSSE. The task force will make recommendations on:

- **School Report Cards** – each state is required to create a single statewide report card that will help families understand how individual schools, as well as public and charter schools across the District, are performing.
- **Access and Opportunity** – each state is required to guarantee high-quality opportunities for all students. The task force will examine areas of inequity and take steps to resolve them.
- **High School Growth** – the District's ESSA plan currently rewards schools for student achievement, but the plan promises to find a way to identify schools where students are making significant growth toward proficiency. DC also wants to include science achievement in its school ratings, in addition to reading and math achievement. The task force will work to rate schools using a formula that balances both achievement and growth.
- **Pilot Studies** – an important component of school quality is climate, or how the students and parents perceive a school's environment. The task force will work with OSSE to identify methods of measuring school quality, and this information will become a part of each school's ESSA accountability score. The information from this pilot study and any other studies OSSE conducts will be included on school report cards to help families make school choices.

The task force meets on the first Tuesday of each month from now until June 2019. Meetings are from 6-8 PM at 441 4th Street NW on the 11th floor, and members of the public are welcome to attend meetings or stream them from the State Board's Periscope page, at bit.ly/SBOELiveInDC. For the latest updates on the task force's work, please visit sboe.dc.gov/essa.