
Board Report

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Monday, Nov. 6, 2017

Our Data Story: Differentiated Accountability

On September 18, the Iowa Department of Education submitted to the U.S. Department of Education the state's plan for meeting requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The USDOE has 120 days to review our plan.

Key pillars of ESSA:

- Replaces the No Child Left Behind Act and returns more authority to states and schools
- Eliminates federally prescribed targets, sanctions, or models for turning around schools
- Maintains focus on equity for all students
- Provides opportunity to develop systems of accountability and support that make sense for states

Iowa's ESSA Plan addresses the **federal requirements that every state:**

1. **Set long-term goals for proficiency in reading and math, graduation rates, and English Language Proficiency (students who are not native English speakers)**
2. **Identify public schools that need improvement every 3 years**
3. **Identify the lowest 5% of schools based on performance and schools with student subgroups that are consistently underperforming.**

While all three of these ESSA goals are not new for our state, **the details of the requirements within each goal will bring changes to Iowa school districts.** You may find it interesting and informative to know how Iowa schools have been preparing for our new state plan, as summarized by Director Wise on p. vii of the plan linked here: [Iowa's ESSA Plan](#).

Here is a summary of the anticipated changes within ESSA, as per Fall 2017 updates from Dr. David Tilly:

Goal #1: Long-term student proficiency goals

- Iowa's current accountability measure focuses on literacy in grades K-6, using performance on FAST screening assessments. ~~In 2018-19~~, accountability data will shift to include reading and math (but not science), using our new state assessment as an additional performance measure.
 - In addition, more aggressive performance goals will be set for student subgroups, which will include 1) English Language Learners, 2) Free and Reduced Lunch, 3) Students with Disabilities, and 4) Racial/Ethnic Minorities. Glenwood has sufficient numbers in two of these subgroups to be held accountable for performance accountability goals.
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Goal #2 & #3: Identify schools in need of assistance every 3 years; Identify lowest 5% of schools.

- Determination criteria - as well as sanctions & supports - will be established at the state level, as opposed to the federal level as was previously the case under ESSA's legislative predecessor, No Child Left Behind.
- Criteria will include the following, and will be differently weighted: 1) student participation in state assessments, 2) academic achievement, 3) student growth, 4) progress in achieving English Language Proficiency, 5) conditions for learning, 6) post-secondary readiness, and 7) graduation rates.
- Iowa school districts are awaiting additional detail and direction from the state, once the state's plan is approved.

For your consideration, here is the Department's [2-page snapshot](#) of Every Student Succeeds Act in Iowa.

Question regarding public reporting of school performance:

1. *Will these accountability determinations replace the current Iowa School Report Card and/or become the new Iowa School Report Card?*

Answer: No (or at least not yet). As of 2018-19, there will be two separate "report cards" for schools. The current Iowa School Report Card, which is an attendance center ranking, is based in Iowa code/legislation. The indices used are not exactly the same as the new ESSA indices. Therefore, the ESSA report card will be "in addition to". The goal of the Department is to find a way to get back to one system of public accountability reporting.

New State Assessment

No updates from the Department this month