

EAST ALTON ELEMENTARY DISTRICT #13



Welcome to the East Alton District 13 guide on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and how it impacts family engagement. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a federal law passed in 2015 that governs K-12 education policy in the United States. ESSA replaced the No Child Left Behind Act and aims to provide all students with equal opportunities for a high-quality education.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) emphasizes accountability, state flexibility, and support for schools to help students succeed academically. ESSA focuses on standards-based education, assessment, school and district accountability, and support for struggling schools. The law also places a strong emphasis on family engagement, supporting English language learners, and promoting a well-rounded education for all students.

Importance of Family Engagement:

- Family involvement in education has been linked to higher student achievement, improved behavior, and increased motivation.
- ESSA recognizes the vital role families play in supporting student learning and school improvement efforts.

Key Components of ESSA Family Engagement:

1. **Communication:** Schools will communicate with parents regarding school programs, student progress, and opportunities for involvement.
2. **Parental Involvement:** Schools will work to collaborate with parents in the development of school programs, ensuring their voices are heard.
3. **Collaboration:** ESSA encourages collaboration between schools, families, and communities to support student learning and well-being.

Ways to Get Involved:

- Attend parent-teacher conferences and school events.
- Join the school's parent-teacher association (PTA).
- Volunteer in classrooms or school events.
- Stay informed about school policies and initiatives.

Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Grants:

Title I, II, IV and Title 1, Part A grants are key components of federal funding provided to schools to support various educational initiatives.

Title I Grant:

- **Aim:** Title I grants aim to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged students, particularly those at schools with high poverty rates.
- **Focus:** These grants support programs that provide additional resources for students who are struggling academically and may not be meeting grade-level expectations.
- **Benefits for Families:** Title I funds can support family engagement activities to help bridge the school-home connection.

Title 1, Part A Grant:

- **Aim:** Title I, Part A is to ensure that all children, particularly those from low-income families, have access to a high-quality education and achieve proficiency on challenging state academic standards. The program aims to close achievement gaps and provide additional resources to schools serving a significant percentage of economically disadvantaged students, thereby promoting educational equity.
- **Focus:** Title I, Part A focuses on enhancing the academic performance of students, especially those who are struggling or at risk of falling behind.
- **Benefits for Families:** Families of students in Title I schools often benefit from additional educational resources, such as tutoring, after-school programs, and summer learning opportunities.

Title II Grant:

- **Aim:** Title II grants focus on professional development for educators to improve teaching quality and student achievement.
- **Focus:** These grants support initiatives to enhance teacher effectiveness, promote innovative teaching practices, and address specific needs within schools.
- **Benefits for Families:** Title II funds indirectly benefit families by ensuring teachers have access to training and resources to better support student learning.

Title IV Grant:

- **Aim:** Title IV grants support a well-rounded education, safe and healthy schools, and the effective use of technology.
- **Focus:** These grants fund programs that promote student well-being, academic enrichment, and the integration of technology in education.
- **Benefits for Families:** Title IV funds may support initiatives that enhance school safety, mental health services for students, and access to technology.

How Families Can Engage:

- Stay informed about how Title I, II, and IV funds are used in their child's school.
- Participate in school meetings and events related to these grants.
- Advocate for the effective use of grant funds to benefit all students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Title I, II, and IV grants play a significant role in shaping the educational experiences of students and families. By understanding these grants and actively engaging with schools, families can contribute to creating a supportive and enriching learning environment for all students. If you have additional Every Student Succeeds Act questions, please feel free to contact Kelli Decker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at 433-2103.