



# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Florida School Finance Officers Association

June, 2016



# What is ESSA?

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

# When Will It Be Implemented?

- 2016-17 formula funds will be awarded and administered in accordance with the NCLB.
- Most ESSA components will be fully implemented at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.

# How Will Funding Change in 2017-18?

- Title I, Part A:
  - Formula remains basically the same.
  - Instead of 4% reserved for school improvement, the state will reserve 7% for school improvement (the separate school improvement grant (SIG) is being merged with Title I, Part A, Basic and funding increased to compensate for the increase in the reservation.

# Funding (cont.)

- Title I, Part A
  - States may choose to reserve up to 3% to provide competitive grants to LEAs for Direct Student Services.
  - Florida will consult with LEAs and other interested parties to determine the best course of action relative to this option

# Other Programs

- It is anticipated that funding levels will remain basically the same for the Migrant Program, Titles II and III, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Title X – Homeless.
- Some small changes in formulas to continue emphasis in high-poverty states and local education agencies (LEAs)

## Other Programs (cont.)

- A number of smaller programs have been consolidated or eliminated and formula funding will be available under a new program – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.

# Title I Provisions

- Comparability – stays the same
- Supplement not supplant
  - “To demonstrate compliance, the LEA shall demonstrate that the methodology used to allocate state and federal funds to each school ensures that the school receives all the State and local funds it would otherwise receive if it were not receiving Title I funds.”

# Supplement Not Supplant

- No LEA shall be required to:
  - Identify individual costs or services as supplemental; or
  - Provide services through a particular instructional method or in a particular instructional setting to demonstrate compliance.

# Supplement Not Supplant

- “The Secretary [of Education] may not prescribe the specific methodology an LEA uses to allocate State and local funds to each Title I school.”

# Supplement Not Supplant

- This provision was subject to negotiated rule-making.
- Meetings were held in March, 2016 and the committee members were unable to reach consensus.
- USED will now issue draft rules for public comment.

# FAQ

With the uncertainty of funding for 2017-18 is it recommended that districts hold back some of the allocation to roll into 2018-19 to minimize cuts?

- Although we cannot predict with certainty what the federal appropriation will be, at this time we are not recommending that districts hold back any funds.

# Transferability

- ESSA allows SEAs or LEAs to transfer all of their funds under Title II, Part A; Title IV, Part A or Section 4202(c) (3) between these programs and into but not out of Title I, Part A, C, and D; Title III, Part A and Title V, Part B.

# FAQ

Does this mean that funds may be combined (transferred) to the large program/grants to enable braiding and/or blending of funds?

- Although the transferability option has been expanded, this option does not allow funds to be combined or co-mingled. Funds must be accounted for in the original award.

## FAQ (cont.)

- It does allow for the funds to be used for the purposes of the receiving program rather than the original program
- Blending and braiding may occur regardless of the use of the transferability option

# FAQ

What are the benefits of transferring funds from one program to another?

- May allow districts to redirect available funds to identified needs and more closely coordinate activities of the referenced programs.

# New Fiscal Reporting Requirement

- ESSA requires that both the SEA and LEA prepare annual reports cards (not a new requirement)
- A new element of the report cards is that the report cards must include “per-pupil expenditures for federal, state, and local funds.

# Report Card

- The reporting of per-pupil expenditures must be:
  - actual expenditures
  - disaggregated by source of funds
  - provided for each local education agency and for each school for the preceding fiscal year.

How will this be  
accomplished?

Stay Tuned!

# Updates

- DOE is providing regular updates regarding the implementation of ESSA in FL, most recently on June 3.
- These, along with other resources can be found at:  
<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/essa.shtml>.

# Excerpts

- It is vital for us to spend time discussing recent state and federal legislation in order to keep our stakeholders informed and our districts prepared for any policy changes.

## Excerpts (cont.)

- At FDOE, one of the first things we ask ourselves when it comes to decision-making is “will this help ensure that all students are learning?”

## Excerpts (cont.)

- As we look to the future and plan for implementation of ESSA, that question will remain in the forefront of conversations.

## Excerpts (cont.)

- We are still waiting on additional guidance from USED, but we do know that ESSA emphasizes accountability, particularly for low-performing schools with consistently low graduation rates and slow progression.

## Excerpts (cont.)

- Here in Florida, these are familiar concepts. We established K-12 accountability before No Child Left Behind, and we have continued to raise standards and academic achievement in recent years to ensure success in college, career, and life for all students.

## Excerpts (cont.)

- As a result, Florida's students are leading the way in critical education metrics, and we now serve as a national education model. This is particularly impressive considering the fact that we consistently raised the bar to ensure students are prepared to succeed in higher education and compete in the global job market.

# Excerpts (cont.)

- ESSA provides more flexibility than ESEA, but the degree of flexibility is not yet completely outlined.
- We are learning together and caution districts in moving too fast on items that will need to be finalized at the federal level before we know the parameters of ESSA flexibility and can pursue decisions at the state level with your input.

# Timeline

- April 2016: Negotiated rulemaking meetings finished
- May, 31, 2016: USED published draft regulations on accountability, state plans, and data reporting
- Spring/Summer 2016 – Analysis of ESSA to determine what changes are needed for Florida

# Timeline (cont.)

- June/July 2016 – Online public comment system open for input on what should be in Florida’s state plan based on what ESSA says
- Summer/Fall 2016 – State plan drafted

# Timelines (cont.)

- TBD: Florida's ESSA state plan will be posted for public comment for at least 30 days prior to its due date to USED
- No later than Summer 2017 – State plan submitted to USED

# Timelines (cont.)

- Early 2017: ESSA offers an opportunity for FDOE to consolidate ESSA program funding application. We anticipate providing training on a new application.
- 2017-18 School Year – ESSA implementation begins.

# Additional Information

- FDOE will continue to post information on our website.
- There is a place on the ESSA page to sign up to get email updates when new information is available.
- Questions about ESSA can be sent to [ESSA@fldoe.org](mailto:ESSA@fldoe.org).

# Public Input

- This week, FLDOE is beginning to take public input on provisions of the ESSA.
- To access the public input form, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/essa.shtml>.

# Public Input (cont.)

- This is the first of several opportunities that will be available to provide input.
- A copy of the official invitation to provide input will be (or has been) sent to each school district superintendent and finance officer among many others.

# Public Input (cont.)

- This input will be considered as we develop Florida's draft state plan and other implementation efforts.
- We encourage all of you to visit the website and submit your thoughts and comments on any portion of ESSA that you wish.

# Thank You!

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