

We Need YOU to Get Involved in Colorado's Every Student Success Plan!

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Last year, President Barack Obama signed a bipartisan bill called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), overhauling the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) education law, which expired in 2007. The bill intends to usher in a new approach for K-12 education, in regards to accountability, teacher evaluations and the way the most poorly performing schools are pushed to improve.

Accountability provisions within NCLB have been maintained, such as tracking the progress of students in poverty and access to progress monitoring for children with disabilities, but states and local school districts now have the ability to address problems in a way that best meets the children and community whom they are uniquely serving.

Specifically, the new bill ensures alignment with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and does the following for children with disabilities:

- Limits the use of alternate assessments to the 1% of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- Requires states to hold all students to high achievement standards.
- Provides the necessary instructional supports and services to students with disabilities.

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is busy working on how ESSA will be implemented across the state and is seeking ALL stakeholders to provide input into your local district, your neighborhood school, and YOUR child's experience. That means they need YOU!

Here are some ways you can be a part of ESSA in Colorado:

- CDE will post all Hub and Spoke committee work on the [ESSA State Plan Development website](#), including the drafts and presentations from the Spokes to the Hub.
- Sign up for the newsletter to receive updates on the ESSA state plan development process and to receive notifications of upcoming feedback and involvement opportunities. [Click here](#) to sign up to receive these updates.
- [ESSA Hub committee meetings](#) are open to the public and CDE will provide opportunities to submit feedback directly to that committee. Live audio streaming and recording options are in the works.
- [Click here](#) for more information on the continuing work of developing Colorado's ESSA State Plan, including more information on the Hub and Spoke Committees, committee meeting dates, and state plan draft materials.

There are many ways to be involved in the process, and this work requires community involvement in order to be the best it can be! Take a moment to engage with this planning process to make sure students with disabilities are not forgotten in the planning process!