

STEM Education Opportunities and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

December 2016



~~No Child Left Behind~~ Every Student Succeeds Act



President Obama Signs the Every Student Succeeds Act on December 10, 2015

Overview of the New Law

No Child Left Behind Act

High stakes focus on math and reading, to the exclusion of other subjects.

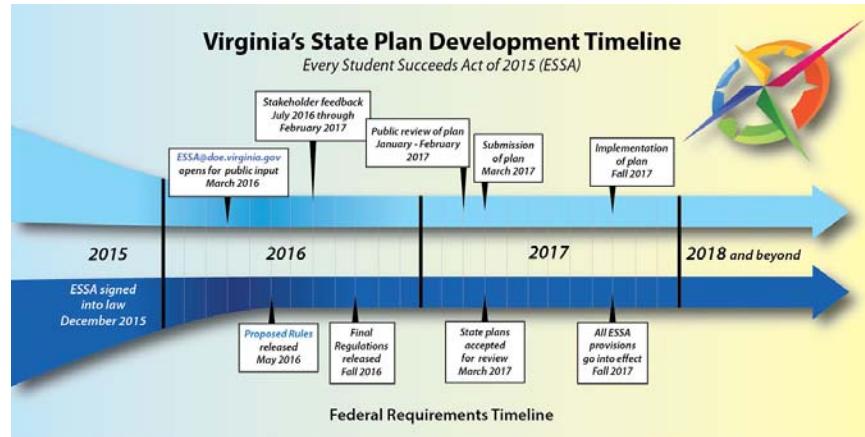
20+ funding streams to states, with priorities set in federal law

Every Student Succeeds Act

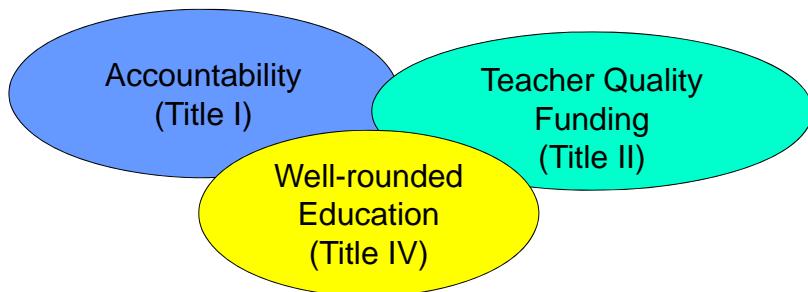
Math and reading still tested (along with science), but accountability decisions made at state level

Massive consolidation of federal funding into a few state and district block grants

State Time Lines for ESSA Implementation



Three Main Areas of Focus for ESSA and STEM



Accountability: Every Student Succeeds Act Shifts Major Decisions Back to States



States may now develop their own methods for judging school quality, which allows states to consider more qualitative factors such as results from parent and student surveys



Students will still have to be tested in math and reading every year between third and eighth grade, and once per grade band in science, however states now have significantly more control in deciding how these scores are utilized when building education reform programs



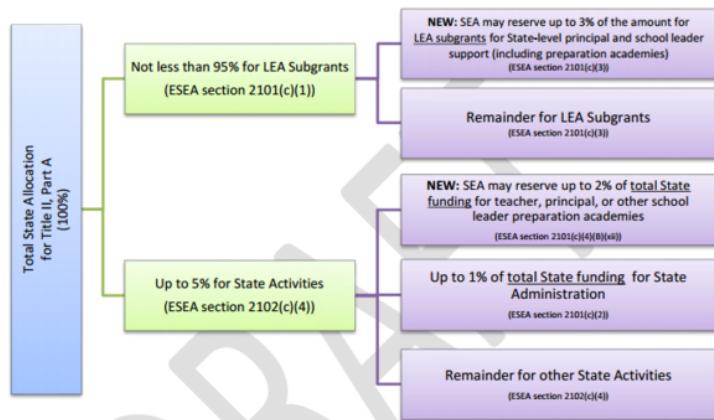
States are still required by the federal government to intervene in schools performing in the bottom 5 percent, however it is up to local governments to decide how reforms will take shape



Student data will still be separated into subgroups based on race, income and disability status to prevent gaps in education, however states are able to develop their own plans to ensure equality across various demographic groups. In addition, states will have the responsibility to design their own systems for judging schools.

Teacher Quality Funding in Title II

The Flow of Title II, Part A Funding



Source: Education Week

Possible Uses of Title II Funding for Afterschool

Authorized at \$2.3 billion

Funds can be used for:



- Professional development and other comprehensive systems of support for teachers, principals, or **other school leaders** to promote high-quality instruction and instructional leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects [Sec. 2103 (b)(3)(M)]
- Providing high-quality professional development for teachers, principals, or **other school leaders** on effective strategies to integrate rigorous academic content, career and technical education, and work-based learning (if appropriate), which may include providing common planning time, to help prepare students for postsecondary education and the workforce" [Sec. 2103 (b)(3)(O)]
- "Participation in opportunities for experiential learning through observation" [Sec. 2103 (b)(3)(E)(vi)]

Well Rounded Education: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

- ❑ New Title IV A Formula Grant Program
- ❑ \$1.65 billion authorized.
 - ✓ House FY17 funding bill: \$1 billion
 - ✓ Senate FY17 funding bill: \$300 million
- ❑ Districts receiving more than \$30k must conduct a needs analysis.
- ❑ They must also use at least 20% of their grant for activities to support a well-rounded education, and at least 20% for activities to support safe and healthy students, and funds to support the effective use of technology.



Title IV.A Uses of Funds

**Can be used by districts
for:**

- Safe and drug free schools
- Mental health counselors
- Counseling
- Music education
- Civics
- IB/AP testing
- STEM**

And . . .

- Drug and violence prevention
- Training on trauma-informed practices,
- Health and physical education
- Effective use of technology

Afterschool STEM-specific Uses of Funding Under Title IV.A

Supports activities to provide students with a well-rounded education. These funds can be used to:

“Facilitating collaboration among school, afterschool program, and informal program personnel to improve the integration of programming and instruction in the identified [STEM] subjects” [Sec. 4107 (a)(3)(C)(v)]



“Providing hands-on learning and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and supporting the use of field-based or service learning to enhance the students’ understanding of the STEM subjects” [Sec. 4107 (a)(3)(C)(iii)]



“Supporting the participation of low-income students in nonprofit competitions related to STEM subjects (such as robotics, science research, invention, mathematics, computer science, and technology competitions)” [Sec. 4107 (a)(3)(C)(ii)]

“Activities and programs to support student access to, and success in, a variety of well-rounded education experiences” [Sec. 4107 (a)(3)(J)]

Implications and Advocacy



- The Every Student Succeeds Act vastly expands the resources available to states and districts that can support STEM education and will broaden the focus of learning beyond math and reading, creating a myriad of new STEM learning opportunities, **BUT...**
- With increased local autonomy, there are no guarantees that states and districts will use funds for these purposes, **AND...**
- Many state and district officials are not yet aware of the opportunities to use federal funding to support activities that are not tied to math or reading, **SO...**
- **Advocates need to get out the message that ESSA CAN be used to advance STEM education – if we get states/districts to use the law for that purpose**

Our State Policy Goals

- States (and districts) should use **Title IV.A funding to support STEM purposes**.
- ...should utilize science assessments as part of accountability systems to **make science count**.
- ...use Title I funds to **create or improve science assessments for states**, especially states implementing new science standards.
- ...use Title II funding for **professional development for teachers on STEM content** and develop STEM leaders and mentors.
- ...use Title II funding to expand alternative certification of STEM teachers and **differentiated pay and other incentives for STEM educators**.



Our Toolkit

We have included a range of background materials and fact sheets on key STEM and informal education topics. We've also included links to the formal guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education to state and local educators on how to apply for federal funds to support STEM education through the ESSA. Finally, there are also links to webinars and other in-depth materials about the new education law and what it means for you.

<http://www.stemedcoalition.org/policy-forum/state-advocacy-resources/>

What Can Advocates Do?

- Find your state's ESSA plans and review them.
- Attend town hall meetings and other public forums on ESSA.
- Write to your state and district leaders and urge them to make STEM education a priority.
- Reach out to other state partner organizations that share your STEM goals.
- Contact us for assistance and further materials and to share what you are seeing.