Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Educational Law Presentation

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Overview

- Signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015
- Amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
- Replaced the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- Works to keep public schools accountable for students' learning and achievements
- Purpose: "...to make sure public schools provide a quality education for all kids" (Lee, n.d.)

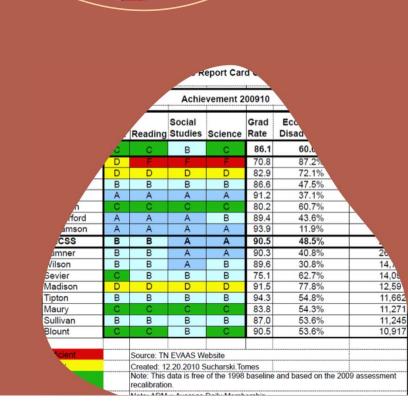
Main Points

- Requires that all students be taught with standards that will prepare them for college and careers
- Increases access to high-quality preschools
- Maintains an expectation of accountability and transparency within schools
- Requires additional support be given to lowest performing 5% of schools in each state
- Requires states to report an average of how much money is spent on each student





- Requires each state to measure all students' performance in reading, science, and math
- States can decide how students will be assessed for reading, science, and math
- Requires each state to create an easily accessible, understandable, and public "State Report Card"
- Report card includes state's academic standards, results on academic performance in reading, science, and math, teacher qualifications, graduation rates, suspensions, and others



Impact of Every Student Succeeds Act

Pros

- Works to increase equity within the public school system
- Requires a high national standard that students be taught at
- Increases tranparency between schools and parents
- Increased accountability
- Discourages the use of test results to determine teacher performance
- Gave more control back to the states

Cons

- Relys on testing scores to determine the success of a student
- Does not stop school closures
- Still ways to manipulate the system
- The root causes of inequality are not addressed



Population

- This act impacts children who are in kindergarten through
 12th grade in a public school
- Provides additional support to historically disadvantaged students
- Provides extra resources for the lowest performing schools in each state







Professional Perspective

Do I think the Every Student Succeeds Act is accomplishing its intended purpose?

- While no system is perfect, I think it is doing a decent job at accomplishing its intended purpose
- In 2016, the U.S. high school graduation rate was 84.1% (Balingit, 2017)
- In 2020, the U.S. high school graduation rate was 86% (Biron, 2021)
- Improvement efforts need to continue to be worked towards to decrease inequality within education

References

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Questions or Comments