

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





Main Points

- 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

Report Card

Achievement 200910

	Reading	Social Studies	Science	Grad Rate	Economic Disadv	
	C	C	B	C	86.1	60.0
	D	F	F	F	70.8	87.2%
	D	D	D	D	82.9	72.1%
	B	B	B	B	86.6	47.5%
	A	A	A	A	91.2	37.1%
	C	C	C	C	80.2	60.7%
...ford	A	A	A	B	89.4	43.6%
...mson	A	A	A	A	93.9	11.9%
...CSS	B	B	A	A	90.5	48.5%
...mner	B	B	A	A	90.3	40.8%
...Wilson	B	B	A	B	89.6	30.8%
...Sevier	C	B	B	B	75.1	62.7%
...Madison	D	D	D	D	91.5	77.8%
...Tipton	B	B	B	B	94.3	54.8%
...Maury	C	C	C	C	83.8	54.3%
...Sullivan	B	B	B	B	87.0	53.6%
...Blount	C	C	B	C	90.5	53.6%

Source: TN EVAAS Website
 Created: 12.20.2010 Sucharski, Tomes
 Note: This data is free of the 1998 baseline and based on the 2009 assessment recalibration.

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 transparency 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