

## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and School Mental Health: Implications for Schools, Districts, and States**

### ***Resources: School Mental Health and ESSA***

#### **1) National Association of School Psychologists: ESSA Implementation Resources**

The NASP [website](#) includes 13, 2-page fact sheets about ESSA as it relates to school psychology and school mental health including overview documents and content specific documents.

#### **2-Page Fact Sheets Include:**

- Assessment and Accountability
- Title IV Funding Opportunities
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support
- School Safety
- School Climate
- Mental and Behavioral Health Services

#### **1.2 & 1.3) NASP: ESSA Assessment and Accountability for School Psychologists & Assessment and Accountability for Decision-Makers**

Description: 2-page overview of ESSA assessment & accountability for school psychologists; 2-page overview for decision-makers

Summary: summarizes ESSA changes to accountability system as it relates to mental health/school climate outcomes; how school psychologists can inform policy, and who else might be involved in policy development

#### [Website](#)

Relevant Information: In addition to two student academic achievement indicators, ESSA requires “at least one indicator of school quality or student success such as student engagement or school climate and safety.” Possible indicators include: chronic absenteeism, suspension and expulsion rates, perceptions of school safety, social awareness, self-management, self-efficacy, and growth mindset.



#### **1.4) NASP: ESSA Title IV Funding Opportunities**

Description: 2-page overview of ESSA funding streams relevant to school mental health/psychology

Summary: summarizes ESSA funding streams that could be used for school mental health related activities

#### [Website](#)

Relevant Information: Title IV Part A (SSAEC): flexible block grant. Districts must use at least 20% of these funds on efforts to improve “student mental and behavioral health, school climate, or school safety.” Includes a list of example activities, including ‘comprehensive school mental and behavioral health delivery systems’.

#### **1.5 & 1.6) NASP: ESSA and Multi-tiered Systems of Support for School Psychologists & MTSS for Decision-Makers**

Description: 2-page overview of ESSA & MTSS for school psychologists; 2-page overview of ESSA & MTSS for decision-makers

Summary: describes MTSS and discusses role of school psychologists

#### [Website](#)

Relevant Information: States “The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presents significant opportunities to expand access to comprehensive school psychological services within multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS)”



### **1.7 & 1.8) NASP: ESSA School Safety for School Psychologists & School Safety for Decision-Makers**

Description: 2-page overview of ESSA & school safety for school psychologists; 2-page overview of ESSA & school safety for decision-makers

Summary: broad overview of how ESSA can be used for school safety, and the role played by school psychologists

#### [Website](#)

Relevant Information: States “ESSA recognizes the importance of school safety and school climate data in measuring school success. States must include data related to school climate and safety in annual school report cards, and such data could be included in the state’s accountability system. Further, ESSA contains various policies and funding opportunities for schools and districts to implement comprehensive school safety and crisis response policy and practice aligned with the Framework for Safe and Successful Schools.”

### **1.9 & 1.10) NASP: ESSA School Climate for School Psychologists & School Climate for Decision-Makers**

Description: 2-page overview of ESSA & school safety for school psychologists; 2-page overview of ESSA & school safety for decision-makers

Summary: broad overview of how ESSA can be used for school climate, and the role played by school psychologists

#### [Website](#)

Relevant Information: Notes that states can use ESSA funding streams for activities that promote school climate. Includes a list of activities (e.g., MTSS, effective discipline, crisis prevention, comprehensive health and wellness)



## **1.11 & 1.12) NASP: ESSA Mental and Behavioral Health Services for School Psychologists & Mental and Behavioral Health Services for Decision Makers**

Description: 2-page overview of how ESSA can support school mental and behavioral health services for school psychologists; 2-page overview of comprehensive mental/behavioral health services for decision-makers

Summary: The “for school psychologists” sheet looks more useful, and summarizes school mental health services that ESSA could authorize funding for

[Website](#)

Relevant Information: “ESSA provides significant opportunity to increase access to comprehensive school psychological services to help improve student and school outcomes.” In particular,

- expands emphasis on and funding for efforts to meet student’s mental and behavioral health needs
- acknowledges link between student mental health and achievement
- provides flexibility for states and districts; does not mandate specific service delivery system or require specific practices
- authorizes funding streams (Title I, Title II, Title IV) to improve mental health services (provides list of possible goals, including MTSS, screening/early intervention, access to mental health services, mental health first aid)

## **2) Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) ASCD: ESSA Title IV and School Health Frequently Asked Questions**

Description: FAQs about ESSA and school health, primarily focused on funding streams

[Website](#)

Relevant Information: Includes a number of specifics about how funding for health programs will work with ESSA:

- ESSA eliminated 49 programs (e.g., “grants to improve the mental health of children), and adds a block grant (SSAEG) that authorizes activities in: well-

rounded education, supporting safe and healthy students, supporting effective technology.

- Funds are allocated based on Title 1 formula. Districts that receive more than \$30,000 must conduct a needs assessment and then spend at least 20% on safe and healthy school activities, and at least 20% on well-rounded education. Remaining 60% is discretionary (with technology spending cap)
- Lists possible activities that could be funded under “safe and healthy activities,” which includes school-based counseling, student safety and violence prevention, bullying and harassment prevention, integrated systems of student and family supports
- Notes that ESSA also allows new flexibility in Title 1 and Title II funding

### **3) National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)**

#### **New Opportunities to Support Student Health under ESSA**

Description: Policy update with list of opportunities “for states to support student health and wellness within ESSA”.

Relevant Information: Includes descriptions of how states can use ESSA to support student health through:

- State accountability systems,
- Report cards,
- School improvement,
- Schoolwide Title 1 program,
- Professional development
- Student support and academic enrichment grants
- Community support for school success
- Well-rounded education

### **4) National Education Association (NEA)**

#### **ESSA and Student Support Services**

Description: 2-page article discussing ESSA and changes from NCLB to ESSA with regard to testing requirements



Summary: provides basic information on ESSA, highlights how ESSA differs from NCLB concerning testing requirements

[Website](#)

## **5) North American Association for Environmental Education**

### **Comparison of the No Child Left Behind Act to the Every Student Succeeds Act**

Description: 8-page comparison of NCLB and ESSA

Summary: summarizes similarities and differences between NCLB and ESSA more comprehensively than other resources, but focuses little on mental health

[Website](#)

## **6) Department of Health and Human Services**

### **Resources for Supporting Safe and Healthy Students in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

Description: 2-page list of resources that facilitate ESSA compliance

Summary: summarizes a list of resources which meet criteria for ESSA funding (allow schools to provide services which would ensure a safe and healthy learning environment)

[Website](#)

## **7) UCLA Policy Brief February 2016**

Description: 26-page brief about ESSA

Summary: Analyzes how ESSA addresses barriers to learning and presents frameworks for improving how schools provide student and learning supports.

[Website](#)

## ***Social Emotional Learning (SEL) ESSA Resources***

### **1) Funding for Social-Emotional Learning in ESSA by ASCD**

Description: 3-page list from ASCD about potential funding sources

Summary: Provides a list of specific programs for which ESSA funds may potentially be used to support SEL.

[Website](#)

### **2) ESSA: SEL in the New Federal Education Law**

Description: Overview of the relationship between ESSA and Social-Emotional Learning by the Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

Summary: Provides a description about how new provisions in ESSA to support SEL.

[Website](#)

### **3) ESSA Law Broadens Definition of School Success**

Description: An article by EdWeek

Summary: Provides an overview of how ESSA is broadening the definition of school and student success, including ways to incorporate “nonacademic” factors into accountability systems.

[Website](#)

### **4) Everything You Need to Know About ESSA**

Description: A series of blogs by the Committee for Children about social emotional learning and ESSA

Summary: Speaks to ways in which ESSA provides opportunities to expand and strengthen SEL.

[Website](#)

## ***General Resources about ESSA***

### **1) National Association of Secondary School Principals**

#### **Summary of the Every Student Succeeds Act**

Description: 10-page description of ESSA that is more policy focused

Summary: summarizes ESSA, defines terms related to ESSA, discusses appropriations for ESSA, and lists authorizations levels for different funding recipients

### **2) Learning Policy Institute**

#### **Pathways to New Accountability through the Every Student Succeeds Act**

Description: 56-page discussion of options available to states to implement ESSA

Summary: describes multiple ways in which states can redefine their accountability systems as they begin to implement ESSA. Has a number of good figures: describe the accountability system in ESSA, and a figure reviewing different ways to measure academic outcomes, engagement, and opportunities to learn. Finally, several examples of state quality improvement systems are included.

[Website](#)

### **3) Department of Education**

#### **FAQs: Transitioning to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

Description: 17-page broad overview of ESSA and ESEA

Summary: this document offers guidance on different aspects of ESSA including: transitioning to ESSA, flexibility with ESEA, and requirements for Title I, II, and III programs.

[Website](#)





#### **4) Public Law**

##### **Every Student Succeeds Act Legislation**

Description: 392-page document of the ESSA law

Summary: this is the original ESSA law (S.1177).

[Website](#)

#### **5) EdWeek ESSA Overview**

Description: EdWeek article reporting on ESSA key points

Summary: EdWeek provides brief overview of ESSA law, organized by topic area, summarizing key points

[Website](#)

#### **6) Council for Chief State School Officers Compilation of ESSA Resources**

Description: Organization supporting state chiefs provides ESSA resource list

Summary: CCSSO provides a compilation of resources related to ESSA, by topic area, with links to more information from a variety of organizations

#### **7) Alliance for Excellent Education – “Everything You Need to Know about the Every Student Succeeds Act”**

Description: The Alliance for Excellent Education is a policy and advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students graduate from high school.

Summary: The Alliance has an ESSA page that includes several 1-pagers and short video clips (i.e., “Federal Flash”) on various ESSA-related topics, including accountability, deeper learning, and parent and community engagement.

[Website](#)