

HOW THE ESSA ADDRESSES NCLB COMPLAINTS

The bipartisan Senate *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) may not be perfect, but it makes notable improvements to the most scorned aspects of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB).

TESTING

It lowers the stakes on testing while maintaining our ability to collect crucial data on achievement gaps.



- States can use multiple factors to measure school success, including but not limited to test scores.
- States can pilot new assessments at the local level and scale them up to improve statewide tests, as well as experimenting with other ways to improve tests like breaking them up throughout the year or using tests that are computer-adaptive or competency-based.
- Grants are available for states to review their own testing requirements and those of their districts so they can eliminate duplicative or low-quality assessments.

ACCOUNTABILITY

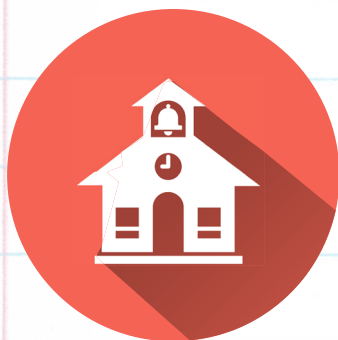
It gets rid of one-size-fits-all, unrealistic goals.

- The federal requirement to show Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward 100% proficiency for every student is eliminated.
- States are responsible for creating their own accountability systems and setting goals for their own students.
- Those accountability systems can now include student growth, not just a static measure of proficiency.



LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

It allows districts and states to take the lead on developing plans to address low-performing schools.



- The NCLB menu of federally-mandated turnaround strategies is completely eliminated.
- Districts have the primary responsibility to determine how best to address low-performing schools and provide support to improve them.
- If low performance persists, states can step in to support districts in improving these schools, but the federal government cannot intervene.

GREAT TEACHERS

It shunts the outdated "HQT" standard while prioritizing equal access to great teachers and school leaders.

- The loophole-ridden "Highly Qualified Teacher" requirement is eliminated, and states will have the responsibility for ensuring their teachers meet a high bar.
- States must report the steps they are taking to ensure the equitable distribution of teachers.
- The Teacher and School Leader Incentive Fund is enshrined into law, allowing states to build out innovative teacher and leader pipelines.

