



EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

**An Overview of the Federal Education Law
and Federal Funding for STEM Initiatives**

NSTA Legislative Affairs, June 2017



Every Student Succeeds Act Becomes Law



Signed into law on Dec. 10, 2015

NCLB Waivers expired end of 2015-16 school year

2016-17: States now developing ESSA consolidated plans and planning implementation

2017-18: ESSA in full effect

Titles under the Every Student Succeeds Act

- **Title 1: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged**
- **Title II: Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders (professional development and class size reduction)**
- Title III: Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
- **Title IV: 21st Century Schools (Student Success and Academic Enrichment SSAE Grants; afterschool programs)**
- Title V: Flexibility and Accountability
- Title VI: Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education
- Title VII: Impact Aid
- Title VIII: General Provisions

Key Changes under the New Law

Equity

ESSA establishes federal “guardrails” to ensure that states maintain high standards, that all student subgroups succeed, and that states and districts intercede with lower performing schools.



Key Changes Under the New Law

Federal Authority

ESSA restricts and greatly rolls back the power of the federal government/ Education Secretary. The federal government cannot interfere in state accountability, or mandate or incentivize states to adopt or maintain standards.



ESSA Local Control

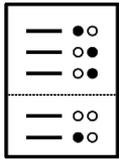
- Under the new federal education law more power and funding decisions go back to local districts, states, teachers and parents.



ESSA Accountability



Ends Adequate Yearly Progress. States may now develop their own methods for judging school quality, and can 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. States now have **significantly more control in deciding how these scores are utilized** when building reform programs

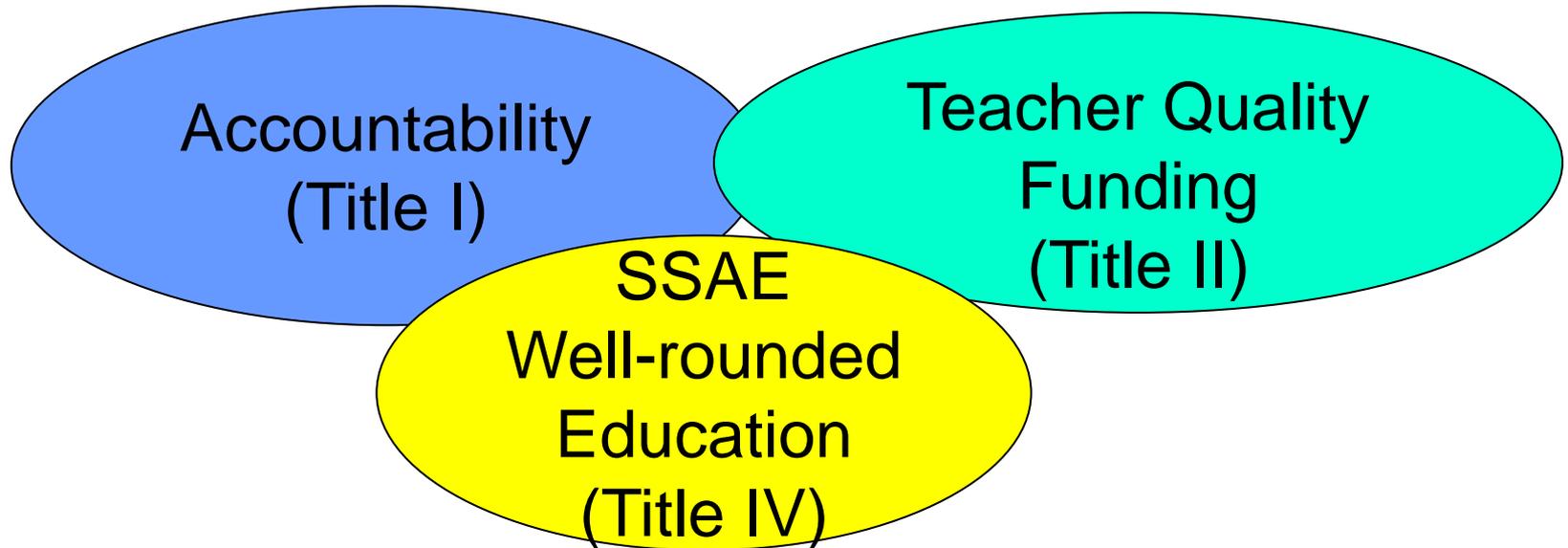
5% ↓

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.**

Main Areas of Funding for Science/STEM in ESSA



ESSA Title IV/A Student Success and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAE)

- Congress authorized \$1.6 billion for a new ESSA Title IV A Support Student Success and Academic Enrichment block grant (although the actual amount appropriated for the grant may be different)
- The SSAE grant is intended to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and local communities to:
 - provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
 - improve school conditions for student learning; and
 - improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

Title IV/A Student Success and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAE)

- The amount of money each state will receive for FY17 is based on how much they received in Title I-A funds from the prior fiscal year.
- Using the same Title I formula, the states will then allocate funds to school districts.
- Any school district that receives a formula allocation above \$30,000 must conduct a needs assessment and must expend **20 percent of its grant on safe and healthy school activities** and **20 percent on activities to provide a well-rounded education**. The remaining **60 percent of the money can be spent on all three priorities, including technology**. (15 percent cap on devices, equipment, software and digital content.)

Title IV/A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Can be used by districts for:

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

And for . . .

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

STEM-specific Uses of Funding Under Title IV/A

Title IV/A supports activities to provide students with a well-rounded education. Districts can use these funds to:

- ❑ Expand high-quality STEM courses;
- ❑ Increase access to STEM for underserved and at risk student populations;
- ❑ Support student participation in STEM nonprofit competitions;
- ❑ Provide hands-on learning opportunities in STEM;
- ❑ Integrate other academic subjects, including the arts, into STEM subject programs;
- ❑ Create or enhance STEM specialty schools – new definition created;
- ❑ Integrate classroom based and afterschool and informal STEM instruction; and
- ❑ Expand environmental education.

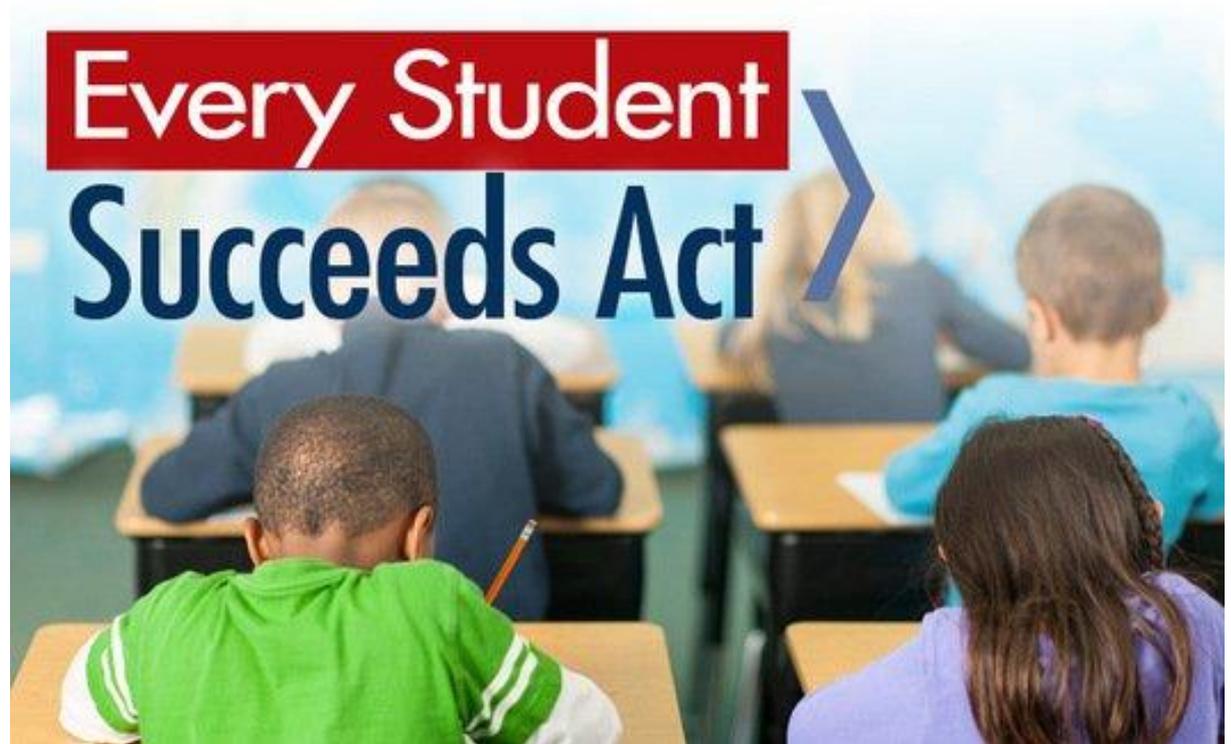


Changes to Title IVA for FY2017

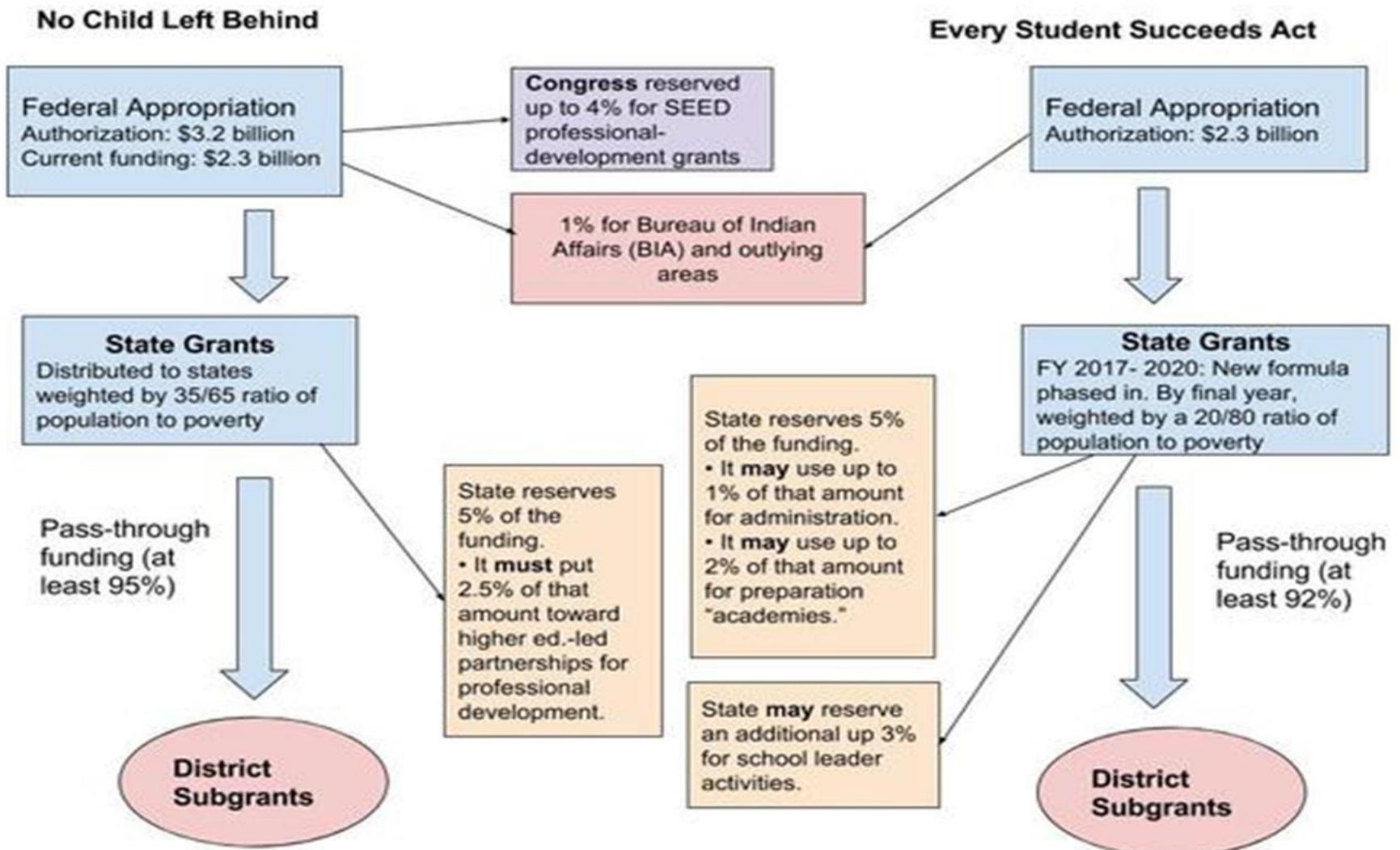
- For FY2017, \$400 million was appropriated by Congress (the authorized amount in ESSA is \$1.6 billion)
- Title IV Funds will be distributed to states starting in July 2017
- Because of the low funding level for FY2017 only, any state department of education can decide to distribute Title IVA funds competitively this year (ESSA law requires Title IVA grants to be distributed by formula based on Title I status.)
- States must ensure that at least 20 percent of available funds are used for well-rounded educational opportunities, at least 20 percent for safe and healthy students, and a portion for effective use of technology.
- Districts receiving competitive subgrants are not subject to the minimum expenditure requirements applicable to formula subgrants.

Uses of Funding with ESSA Title II

Congress authorized \$2.3 billion for the ESSA Title II Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders Grant (although the actual amount the grant receives may be different)



Title II Funding



ESSA Title II Part A

- 15 plus uses of funds for Title II
- Districts must submit applications to the state for subgrant funds
- Teachers can (and should) be included in district application process
- ESSA Title II language specifically says states and districts can develop and provide professional development and other comprehensive systems of support “to promote high quality instruction and instructional leadership in STEM, including computer science.”

Using Federal Funds to Support STEM education

- The U.S. Department of Education issued a [resource document](#) on April 17 to help state education agencies, local education agencies (districts), schools, and their partners better understand how to use Federal funds to support innovative, equity-focused pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (Pre-K–12) STEM education strategies. The next few slides contains examples from this document.

Leveraging Federal Funds for STEM education – Title I

- Title I funds may be used by schools operating a Title I schoolwide program to update existing STEM-related labs and lab materials, or other specialized learning space.
- Title I can support STEM coursework for students attending a Title I school operating a schoolwide program (consistent with the school's comprehensive needs assessment.)
- Title I, Part A funds can support failing students to meet challenging State academic standards through expanded learning time, before- and after-school programs and summer programs and opportunities.
- Title I schools operating a schoolwide program may use Title I, Part A funds to support field trips to increase access to real-world, hands-on STEM experiences, activities, and applications, including experiences that expand student knowledge of the impact of STEM in the world.

Leveraging Federal Funds for STEM education— Title II A

Title II Part A funds can be used to:

- train educators to teach new STEM concepts and approaches, including those in computer science
- provide stipends to attract STEM educators to the profession
- recruit qualified individuals with STEM content knowledge from other fields to become teachers
- provide professional learning opportunities to educators
- support educators as they implement new courses, such as computer science and engineering
- support educators to effectively teach students with disabilities in STEM subjects
- support elementary STEM teachers, including preschool educators, to incorporate STEM learning experiences into their classrooms

Leveraging Federal Funds for STEM education – Title IIA

Title II Part A funds can be used to:

- train or provide professional development to educators on incorporating technology into effective STEM instruction through personalized learning or blended learning
- facilitate collaboration among school, after-school program, and informal program personnel to improve the integration of programming and instruction in STEM subjects
- hire STEM coaches to help grantees tailor professional learning to the needs of individual educators.
- provide differential or incentive pay for educators in high-need subject areas, such as STEM, to serve in high-need schools, or to reward the work of teachers and leaders who have demonstrated effectiveness in improving student outcomes in STEM areas

Leveraging Federal Funds for STEM education – Title IVA

- Title IV funds can be used to purchase or reconfigure STEM materials, devices, or STEM-focused digital learning resources
- Districts may use their Title IV, Part A funds to purchase software and devices that are an essential component of their plans to create and provide digital professional learning communities with practicing scientists or engineers if consistent with their needs assessment, and approved subgrant application.
- Title IV, Part A funds can be used to support the participation of low-income students in nonprofit competitions related to STEM subjects
- Eligible LEAs could utilize Title IV, Part A funds to support the creation and enhancement of STEM-focused specialty schools

Leveraging Federal Funds for STEM education – Title IVA

- Eligible LEAs could utilize Title IV, Part A funds to integrate other academic subjects such as the arts, history, and writing, into STEM subject programs to increase participation in STEM subjects, improve attainment of skills related to STEM, and promote well-rounded education
- Eligible LEAs or consortia of LEAs could use STEM-focused instructional activities under the Magnet School Assistance Program to establish theme-based magnet schools that attract students of diverse backgrounds
- Public charter schools could support STEM initiatives using funds received under the Charter Schools Program

Leveraging Federal Funds for STEM education-Title IVB/Perkins/IDEA

- Title IVB (21st Century Learning Centers) -- States and districts can use 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide high-quality STEM and computer science programs and “maker” activities to students in out-of-school learning settings and as part of expanded learning programs.
- Perkins funds can be used to develop a comprehensive STEM pathway program and support collaborations with technology industries to offer voluntary internships, apprenticeships, and mentoring programs that improve the mathematics and science knowledge of students.
- Districts may use their IDEA, Part B funds to enable students with disabilities to participate in STEM courses, if a student’s individualized education program specifies that the student requires an assistive technology device or service.

FY2017 Federal Education Funding, Selected STEM Programs

- ESSA Title I: \$15.9 Billion
- ESSA Title II Teacher Quality State Grants: \$2.055 billion (\$2.25 billion in FY16)
- ESSA Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants: \$400 million (new program, ESSA authorizers requested \$1.6 billion for this block grant)
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$1.191 billion (\$1.166 billion in FY16)
- Computer Science for All: \$0 (\$100 million proposed)
- STEM Master Teacher Corps: \$0 (\$10 million proposed)
- Perkins/CTE: \$1.135 billion (\$1.125 billion in FY16)

FY2018 Proposed Budget from the Trump Administration*

The 2018 Budget submitted by the Administration proposes \$59 billion for the Department of Education, a \$9 billion or 13 percent reduction.

- ESSA Title I: FY18 \$16.9 Billion, added \$1 billion in new program designed to be portable.
- ESSA Title II: \$0 Eliminated entirely the \$2.4 billion Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program
- ESSA Title IV Part A: SSAE Grants: \$0 Requested no funding for FY2018 programs
- ESSA 21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$0 Eliminated entirely the \$1.2 billion 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool program.
- ESSA STEM Master Teacher Corps: \$0
- Perkins CTE programs: \$876 million. (includes a new \$20 million set aside “that would support a competition to promote the development, enhancement, implementation, or expansion of innovative CTE programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.)

*Note that this is a proposed budget only, and that Congress is responsible for passing appropriations laws.

At the district and school levels . . .

Local leaders will be developing school improvement plans and needs assessment.

Who in your district/school will be making the decision about how federal funds are going to be used?

Is science/STEM included in your district Title I school improvement plan?

Who will be doing the needs assessments and the district plans when they submit for Title II and Title IV dollars?

Where will science/STEM be in these plans?



Getting STEM into ESSA



- Find your state's ESSA plans and review them (go to state Department of Education website for more info).
- Write to your state and district leaders and urge them to make science and STEM education a priority.
- Reach out to other state partner organizations that share your science and STEM goals.
- Find out who in your district is responsible for implementation of federal programs
- Contact NSTA for assistance and further materials and to share what you are seeing.



ESSA Final Word

- With passage of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) the decision-making about our public schools returns to local educators, families, and community leaders.
- The Every Student Succeeds Act expands the resources available to states and districts that can support STEM education 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 support science and STEM education, SO...
- ***Advocates need to get out the message that ESSA CAN be used to advance science and STEM education. Teachers need to be aware of the law, be part of their state and district teams that will determine funding for ESSA programs and advocate that federal funds be used for science/STEM.***

Final Word

More information on ESSA can be found [here](#).

Questions? Or for more information, contact:

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