



# ESSA: Let's Talk

# Where Are We Now?

- ESSA signed into law December 10, 2015
- Replaces NCLB and Flexibility Waivers
- Rolling implementation
- Flexibility Waiver valid until August 1, 2016
- New accountability systems go into effect with 2017-18 school year

# Timeline

- January: US ED held public hearings and took comments
- Ongoing: More limited guidance
- May/June: US ED issued proposed accountability and assessment rules; public comment and revision cycle to follow
- Late 2016: Final federal rules, guidelines
- March or July 2017: State Plan due

# What is ESSA?

# Standards

- States must have challenging academic standards; we remain committed to high quality standards
- DOE in midst of (previously scheduled) ELA and mathematics standards revision and review

# Assessment

- Still required to assess ELA and Math standards in 3 through 8, once at high school
- Still required to assess state Science standards once in grades 3-5, once in 6-9, once in 10-12
- 95% participation of all students, subgroups still required

# Accountability System

- Elementary and Middle School:
  - Three academic indicators required
    - Student Achievement
    - Academic Growth likely retained
    - English Language Proficiency (new\*)
  - Additional indicator required
    - Attendance could be retained; work group also looking at other options

# Accountability System

- High School
  - Three academic indicators required
    - Student Achievement
    - Four-year cohort graduation rate; we'll fight to keep High School Completion
    - English Language Proficiency (new\*)
  - Additional indicator required
    - College and Career Readiness retained but with more options
    - Other options possible

# Accountability System

- New categories for differentiation:
  - Comprehensive Support (similar to Priority Schools)
    - Any Title I school in the bottom 5%
    - Any public high school with a graduation rate < 67%
    - Any Title I school with a chronically underperforming subgroup
  - Targeted support (similar to Focus Schools)
    - Any Title I school with at least subgroup performing at same level as “Priority” schools
    - Any school with a low performing subgroup as defined by the state
- More freedom in supporting these schools

# School Improvement (Focus and Priority Schools)

- Current Focus and Priority Schools remain classified as such for 2016-17.
- New classifications under ESSA unclear: Proposed rules say August 2017; we're arguing for August 2018.

# Report Cards

- Maintain report cards for 2015-16 school year.
- Rules say new ESSA report cards for 2016-17; we're arguing for 2017-18.
- LOTS more information required (as a tradeoff for more state flexibility).

# Proposed Rules - Accountability

- Issued May 31; 15,000 public comments submitted (including SD DOE).
- Overall rolls back state flexibility for innovating in systems
  - Requires 300 SD schools in improvement at cost of \$30m
  - Would not allow College and Career Readiness to keep a school out of school improvement
- SD DOE collaborating with others to influence US ED's final rules

# What is South Dakota doing?

# ESSA Work Groups

- Four Groups:
  - Accountability (overall system)
  - School Improvement
  - English Learners
  - Educator Effectiveness\*
- Began meeting in April; conclude work this fall

# Accountability Work Group

## Overall consistency with current system:

- **FAY, n-size, Gap group, High School Completion retained.**
- **College and Career Readiness**
  - multiple ways to show readiness with a gatekeeper
  - Schools evaluated on all graduates being college –or– career ready
- **Student Achievement necessary, but may have more variation (points for each level)**
- **Academic Growth likely retained**

# Accountability Work Group

## With new elements:

- School Climate/Student Success Indicator at Elementary, Middle School Levels:
  - Trying to find other ways to measure within parameters of rules and realities in SD
  - May retain current attendance measure
- Point values may change
- Goals (old AYP or AMOs) may change
- What gets you into Targeted Support designation (old Focus School designation) will change

# School Improvement

## Comprehensive Support Schools

- Four-year designation with a planning year.
- If have not exited after four years, must choose between a peer review and an external comprehensive needs assessment.

## Targeted Support Schools

- Two year designation with a planning year.
- If have not exited after two years, continue on to the third and fourth year of targeted support.

## Other Recommendations

- Require district commitment to schools identified for support
- SD DOE to provide professional development for school board members

# School Improvement

## Needs Further Discussion

- What does support look like once designated?
- Should DOE maintain a watch list and how would that be used?
- What happens when a school is progressing but does not exit school improvement?
- What support is needed for consistently under-performing schools?
- Can DOE only look at the low performing subgroup and that subgroup's performance? What supports does the DOE have the capacity to offer?
- Is there a need for technical advisors in high risk districts?

# English Learners

- ELA and math testing will remain the same:
  - First year in country exempt from ELA, must take math
  - Second year the ELA and math scores count
- Long Term EL students will need to be identified in Infinite Campus

# English Learners

## Needs Further Discussion

- Definition of Long Term EL student
- What the exit and entry criteria will be (waiting on WIDA Standard Setting)
- Do we count EL students who have exited the program for 2 or 4 years in the EL subgroup?
- Parent notification
- Should K-2 EL achievement data be included in accountability system?

# What's new or different with Title I?

- Foster Care
- Ombudsman
- Mandatory 7% set-aside in 1003(a)
- Optional 3% set-aside for Direct Student Services
- Title IV, Part A

**We need to hear  
from you!**

# Our Next Steps

- Continue to gather as much information as possible
- Seek input from stakeholders
- Work Groups continue to meet
- State plan submission goal: March 6, 2017