

# **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

**January 12, 2018**

The Pennsylvania ESSA consolidated State Plan was provided to the Governor under ESSA Section 8540 on July 1, 2017. It was signed by Governor Wolf on September 18, 2017.

On December 10, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the “Every Student Succeeds Act “(ESSA), which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. Developed and passed with strong, bipartisan Agreement, ESSA replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as the nation’s main education law.

ESSA presents an historic opportunity to impact the course of education in Pennsylvania. The federal law advances ESEA’s promise of ensuring that all students – from pre-kindergarten to postsecondary, and especially low-income students, students of color, students with disabilities, English Learners, and other historically marginalized students – have access to a world-class education that prepares them for college, career, and life.

ESSA requires that each state education agency develop and submit a State Plan that details how the state education agency (SEA) will implement the new requirements. As part of its commitment to ensuring that state policy is inclusive and representative of needs and experiences of students, educators, and communities across the commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) developed a stakeholder engagement process to draft framework recommendations for the development of Pennsylvania’s ESSA State Plan. The Department sought input from parents and families, educators, community leaders, education advocates, researchers, experts, policymakers, and other individuals throughout this process.

For a more detailed explanation to this Act – refer to the following website:  
<https://www.ed.gov/essa>