

ESEA IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

S.1177 Every Student Succeeds Act

Dec. 14, 2015

Topic:	STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS
	Standards and Assessments Overall/Generally
Description of the issue	Provisions related to the number of assessments that states must administer and the grades in which students must take assessments, the subjects in which students must take assessments, and other elements of assessment administration.
S.1177 Every Student Succeeds Act	<p>Each state is required to have implemented a set of high-quality student academic assessments in math, reading or language arts, and science.</p> <p>Assessment timelines from current law are maintained.</p> <p>Assessments may, at the state's discretion, measure individual student growth.</p> <p>State systems can measure achievement through an annual summative assessment or multiple statewide assessments, the results of which would be required to be combined to produce a summative score.</p> <p>States may use computer-adaptive assessments and may measure a student's academic proficiency above or below grade level and use such scores in the state accountability system.</p> <p>Does not generally allow for the use of local assessments, except states may allow an LEA to use a nationally-recognized high school academic assessment in lieu of a state assessment as long as such assessment is aligned to the State's standards and meet other requirements.</p> <p>Allows, but does not require, states to set a limit on the amount of time devoted to the aggregate amount of time devoted to assessment administration for each grade.</p> <p>Prohibits assessments under Title I from assessing personal or family beliefs.</p> <p>Places a cap of 1% of the total number of all students in the State that can be assessed using alternative assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The statutory language does not authorize an LEA cap on the administration of these assessments, but does require LEAs to submit information to the SEA justifying the need to exceed such cap. SEAs are required to provide additional oversight for LEAs which must submit this information. The overall authority to administer these assessments (and the 1% cap) is specifically subject to ESEA's waiver authority.</p>

	<p>A State may exclude a recently arrived English Learner from one administration of the reading/ELA assessment or exclude the results of such English learner from the State's accountability system for the first year of enrollment.</p> <p>The bill continues the requirement in current law for standards in English language arts, Math and Science. Unlike current law, these standards need to be aligned with credit bearing entrance requirements of public higher education in the state and relevant career and technical education state standards.</p> <p>Continues authorization for grants to states for the development of assessments with some modifications, including allowing states to use funds to refine science assessments in order to integrate engineering design skills and practices into such assessments.</p> <p>Also authorizes grants for enhanced assessments similar to current law. Includes language prohibiting funds to be used to mandate, direct, control, incentivize, or make financial awards conditioned upon a State developing an assessment common to a number of states.</p> <p>Authorizes funds for states and local educational agencies to audit their state and local assessment system with the goal of eliminating unnecessary assessments and streamlining assessment systems. This authority allows for the buying out of existing assessment contracts.</p>
Subtopic:	Time Limits
Description of the issue	Provisions related to the amount of time students spend taking assessments.
Conference Report	Permits but does not require states to set a time limit on the amount of time devoted to state and local assessment, for each grade, expressed as a percentage of instructional hours.
Subtopic:	Opt-Out
Description of the issue	Provisions related to parents' ability to opt students out of taking assessments.
Conference Report	<p>States that nothing in the assessment section of Title I preempts state or local law with respect to a parental decision on assessment participation.</p> <p>Requires LEAs to provide parents, on request and in a timely manner, with information regarding state or local policy, procedures and parental rights regarding student participation in mandated assessments.</p> <p>Requires state accountability systems to include 95% participation as an indicator.</p>
Subtopic:	Local and Competency-Based Assessments
Description of the issue	Provisions related to the use of local and competency-based assessments.
Conference Report	Allows for the use of locally selected nationally recognized assessments. As described in other CCSSO fact sheets, allows for up to 7 states to participate in an innovative (competency based) assessment pilot program.