ESSA Update

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Stephen Parker, Legislative Director, Education and Workforce Committee, Office of Government Relations, NGA
ESSA Update

**Moderator**

Stephen Parker  
Legislative Director Associate, Education and Workforce Committee, Office of Government Relations, NGA

**Panelists**

Adam Ezring  
Director of Policy, Collaborative for Student Success

Lauren Burdette  
Managing Director of Education Policy, Office of the Governor, Illinois
Presentation to
GEPA Institute:
An Independent Peer Review of ESSA State Plans

Adam Ezring
December 14, 2017
Goals

✓ To look beyond mere compliance with the federal process, and encourage all states to adopt a common, high bar.

✓ To provide a resource for state leaders working to help all students succeed.
  ✓ Providing “air cover” for state policymakers to hold the line on accountability.

✓ To provide actionable feedback for states to help ensure that their systems are serving all students and providing a more equitable learning environment that fosters success.
  ✓ Arming in-state advocates with “independent analysis” of plan quality.

✓ To create public-facing, user-friendly resources that help local media
  ✓ Helping communities understand the complicated ESSA state plans, strengths and weaknesses.

✓ To promote best practices and discourage weaker accountability components in Round II submission states
  ✓ Moving Round II submission states in the right direction.
Peer Reviewers: Round II

Group of more than 40 education experts representing:

- **States:** 27 state experts across 15 states, including 8 former chiefs.

- **Range of Political Viewpoints:** 22 Democrats and 22 Republicans including representatives from Bush, Obama Administrations and Trump transition team

- **Civil rights, disability, and English learner communities**

- **Teacher Voice,** 14 former teachers including the 2015 National Teacher of the Year.
Major Findings: By the Numbers

Only 2 states explain how they plan to use all available set-aside funds for school improvement.

12 states leave large gaps between expected graduation rates and proficiency rates.

15 states lack clear, easy to understand ratings for all schools.

20 states are silent on consequences for missing the 95 percent participation rate.

24 states do not expect a certain amount of progress in order to exit improvement status.

41 states do not incorporate all student subgroups into ratings for all schools.
Major Findings: Beyond the Numbers

**Strengths**
- Better measures of school quality
- More innovative college- and career-readiness indicators
- States are continuing to place strong weight on academics

**Weaknesses**
- Goals that are often untethered to the accountability system
- The shift to normative accountability systems
- Lack of attention to English Learners and Students with Disabilities
State Spotlight: School Improvement

Indiana

- Specific State and District responsibilities
- Targeted Use of 7% Set-aside:
  - Planning grants in 1st year, following state modeled needs assessment. State menu of supports and resources
  - Competitive grants in 2nd year, with focus on evidenced-based strategies.
- Rigorous Interventions for CSIs
  - State Board directed public hearings and authority to direct intervention model

Rhode Island

- School Improvement Resource Hub
  - Evidenced-based strategies and district implementation guidance
  - Rubrics to review resource allocation and data analysis tools
- School Redesign Policy
  - Approval required for CSIs
- Set-aside: Half formula/Half Competitive
  - 3 specific competitive grants
Best Practice by Category: Round I

No State Earned Highest Mark Possible
Best Practice by Category: Round II

**Goals**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**Standards and Assessments**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**Indicators**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**Academic Process**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**All Students**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**Identifying Schools**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**Supporting Schools**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**Exiting Improvement Status**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible

**Continuous Improvement**

- No State Earned
- Highest Mark Possible
Check State Plans

✓ Best practices, searchable by state and rubric category
✓ Individual state plan analysis
✓ Commentary from peer reviewers
✓ Full report breakdown

How does your state measure up?

State Plans

COLLABORATIVE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
Framing ESSA in the Media

- UnderstandingESSA.org + @ESSA_Updates
- ESSA Advance newsletter
- Partnership with The 74 – interactive map, weekly ESSA Update column
- In-depth state stories + op-eds
Three Things to Know:

✓ Every SEA received a draft! For correction, clarification or commentary!

✓ 132 advocacy groups across the states received embargoed materials in advance!

✓ Extensive and ongoing media outreach! You will see stories in your state!
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Checkstateplans.org
Governor’s Office ESSA Perspective

Lauren Burdette
Managing Director of Education Policy
Office of the Illinois Secretary of Education
Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner
Illinois Context

Governor

Secretary of Education

Me

Illinois State Board of Education (9 members appointed by Governor)

State Superintendent (SEA ~ 400 member agency)

Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

17 state agencies with education programs

Weekly Phone Calls
Additional Illinois Context 2015-2017

- Proration for all districts starting in FY2012
  (partial payments for all districts across the state)

- School funding formula battle

- 2 year state budget impasse
Illinois ESSA Plan Timeline

- April 2016 - December 2016 public listening tour
- Weekly phone calls between Governor’s Office and ISBE
- P-20 Council and Illinois Balanced Accountability Measures Committee formal recommendations from stakeholders - all stakeholder comments due by January 13, 2017
- February: Governor’s Review period
- March: ISBE Board Approval
- April: Plan Draft Submitted
- June: Draft discrepancies
- August: Plan Approved by USED
- September-Present: Implementation Support
Highlights of the Illinois ESSA Plan

- Academic weight in accountability system - 75%
  - Growth greater than proficiency
  - Allows more flexibility with other 25%
- College and Career Readiness Indicator
- Stakeholder engagement
Governor’s Office and ESSA Implementation

- **Current Status of Implementation**
  - Site-based expenditure reporting
  - Designing/executing portions of the plan

- **Best Practices around transition**
  - Stayed involved
  - Leveraging stakeholders (P-20 Council)

- **Challenges**
  - Agency capacity
  - School improvement system
  - Trust