



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Status for 2018-2019

December 11, 2018

What is ESSA?

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaces the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) which provides **federal** funds to improve elementary and secondary education in the nation's public schools and requires states and school districts, as a condition of funding, to take a variety of actions to ensure that **all children**, regardless of race, income, background, or where they live, receive the education they need to prepare them for success in postsecondary education, careers, and citizenship.
- In January 2018, the federal government approved New York State's plan to spend the approximately \$1.6 billion the state receives annually under ESSA.

New York State's Accountability System

NYS Accountability System uses a variety of indicators beyond the core academic subjects.

- **All Schools**

- English Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Progress in learning English for ELLs
- Chronic absenteeism (10% or more instructional days)

- **High Schools**

- Social Studies
- Graduation Rate
- College, career, and civic readiness index – in other words, taking advanced coursework (AP, IB), earning technical education certificates, etc.

- **Future Indicators**

- # of Out-of-school suspensions
- Being ready for high school (once data becomes available)

How will we know students are ready for HS?

State tests in grades 3-8 (ELA, Math, Science) indicate readiness for high school studies.

- The law requires that 95% of students in each tested subgroup take the appropriate state tests. NYSED will work with parents, schools, and districts to increase participation.
- State tests have been reduced to two-days (from three) and are untimed so students have the time they need to complete the test.
- State tests are not linked to teacher evaluations.

Since these changes have occurred, Somers Central School District test refusal rates have begun to decline.

Identification of schools for support and recognition



Schools in the bottom 5% of all schools, high schools with 4-, 5-, and 6-year graduation rates of 67% or less, or schools that have not improved after receiving targeted support will be designated as **Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools**.

Schools with subgroups that are among the lowest-performing in the state will be designated as **Targeted Support and Improvement Schools**.

Schools that are high-performing or rapidly improving as determined by the Commissioner will be designated as **Recognition Schools**.

Schools that are not identified in any of the preceding categories are **Schools in Good Standing**.

Somers Schools have been identified as Schools in Good Standing.

FAQs

- Do NYSTP 3-8 assessments in ELA, Mathematics, and Science impact teacher evaluations? **No** - test scores are not linked to teacher evaluation. However a school's weighted averaged achievement index could be impacted by test participation.
- Can the district lose funding based on a lower than 95% test participation rate? **No** – the state had originally said yes but at this time, it has shifted its position. That said, NYSED is still requiring districts to work towards improving participation.
- Can the district's overall evaluation score be negatively impacted by low participation rate? This could happen if refusal rates are high enough but NYSED looks to **minimize this** by using multiple measures/indicators.

Professional Learning

NYSED recognizes the importance of professional learning (once labeled *Professional Development*) in improving student learning.

- School districts must establish professional learning teams.
- Teams must develop, implement, review and evaluate their professional learning plans.
- Mentoring for new teachers must be part of the plans.
- NYS will award Title II funds (based on district financial need) to support local implementation of the plans.

Questions?

