

Keeping an Eye on the Ball: Prioritizing Literacy in the Age of ESSA

Transforming Lives Through Education
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Leveraging New Opportunities Under ESSA

- ⌘ States must provide guidance to LEAs choosing to use Title 1 funds to improve or expand early childhood education programs
- ⌘ States may use Migrant Education funds for family literacy programs;
- ⌘ SEA professional development grants may include early childhood/early literacy or school readiness as a priority and the Act specifically authorizes support for joint efforts to address the transition into elementary school
- ⌘ States may apply for the *Literacy Education for All* grants which has a set-aside of 15% of funding for early literacy
- ⌘ States and LEAs may invest in early literacy programs for English Learners and may apply in consortium with institutions of higher education for Natl. Professional Development Project grants

ESSA Early Childhood Policy Mandates

- ⌘ State Title I plans must describe how they will (a) support LEAs and schools that choose to use Title I funds for early childhood education programs, and (b) provide information on effective parent and family engagement strategies
- ⌘ Title I plans must also be coordinated with programs under the Head Start Act and the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
- ⌘ Title I State report cards must include number and percentage of students enrolled in preschool programs, presented in the same manner as the data submitted to the USDOE/Office of Civil Rights (i.e., disaggregation by subgroups)
- ⌘ LEAs are required to create agreements to coordinate services with Head Start agencies and must ensure compliance with HS performance standards

CCSSO's Support to States' Early Childhood Education/ Early Literacy Implementation under ESSA

- ⌘ *Equity Starts Early – How Chiefs Will Build High Quality Early Childhood Education (March 2016)*
- ⌘ *ESSA and Early Childhood Education: Opportunities for State Leadership (June 2016)*
- ⌘ *Leading for Equity: Opportunities for State Education Chiefs (includes Start early: invest in the youngest learners as one of the ten principles)*
- ⌘ *Developing a Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to ESSA – A Supplemental Tool for Structuring Your Plan for Preschool to Third Grade (November 2016)*
- ⌘ *State Collaborative with state leaders in early childhood education to support ESSA planning and Third Grade Reading legislation (11 states) (Oct. 2016 to June 2017)*

CCSSO Support to States (cont'd)

- ⌘ Developing a Birth to Grade 3 Indicator Framework and Tool Kit for ECE leaders in states (Dec. 2016 to July 2017)
- ⌘ Action Network: Implementing College and Career Ready Standards (ICCS) Early Learning Workgroup (7 states) (Oct. 2016 to June 2017)
- ⌘ State Consortium on Family and Community Engagement (planned for 2017)
- ⌘ Project support for an Early Childhood Education Assessment Consortium (7 states) (through June 2018)

For more information

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https://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/Every_Student_Succeeds_Act.html