

Bringing Power to Parents: The Age of New Education Assessments

ESSA as Civil Rights Legislation



By passing this bill, we bridge the gap between helplessness and hope for more than five million educationally deprived children. We put into the hands of our youth more than 30 million new books, and into many of our schools their first libraries. We reduce the terrible time lag in bringing new teaching techniques into the nation's classrooms. We strengthen state and local agencies which bear the burden and the challenge of better education. And we rekindle the revolution--the revolution of the spirit against the tyranny of ignorance. As a son of a tenant farmer, I know that education is the only valid passport from poverty.

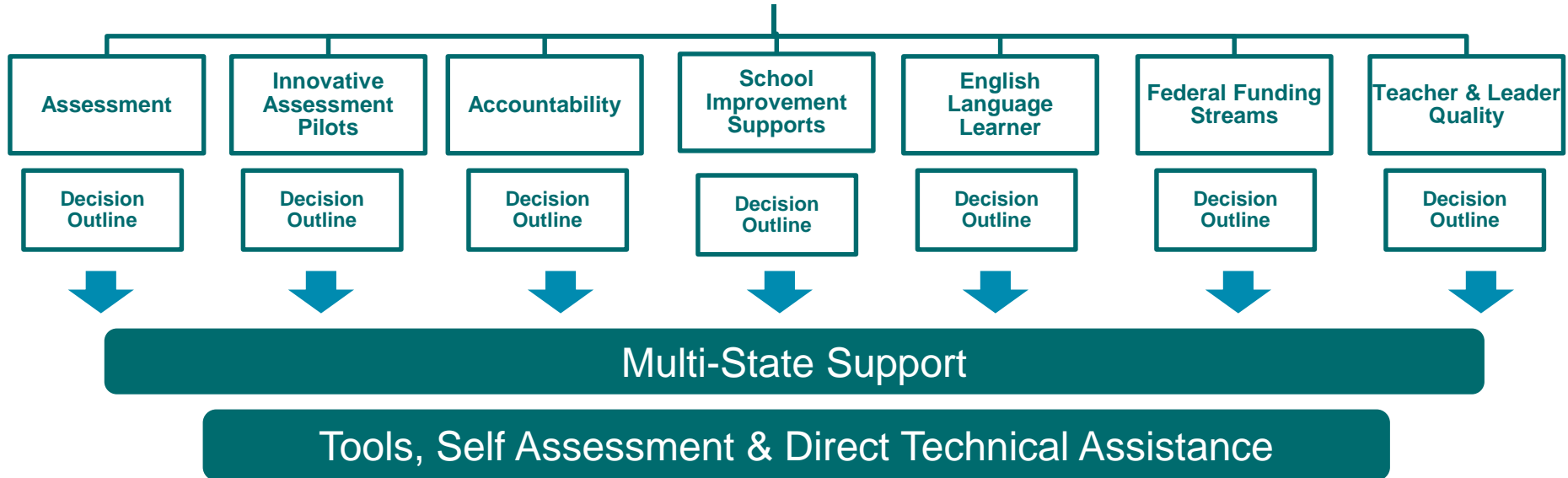
-President Lyndon B. Johnson, April 11, 1965

Assessment: NCLB v. ESSA

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)	Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
Yearly tests: mathematics, ELA, science Grades 3-8 and once in high school	Yearly tests: mathematics, ELA, science Grades 3-8 and once in high school
Annual summative assessments	Annual summative assessment OR multiple statewide assessments
No limit on time devoted to assessments	Option to limit time devoted to assessments
Must test $\geq 95\%$ of each subgroup in their school for Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP)	$\geq 95\%$ participation rate, but AYP has been removed
Not applicable	Funding for audit of state and local assessments
Not applicable	Up to 7 states eligible for funding to carry out innovative assessment pilot

CCSSO's ESSA Implementation Framework

State Strategic Vision




Stakeholder Engagement



Let's Get This Conversation Started: Steps Every State Should Take to Map Out Its ESSA Engagement Strategy

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has drastically changed the federal education landscape for the first time in more than a decade. State education agencies (SEAs) have been granted additional flexibility under the new law but first must establish their state strategic vision and evaluate how the new law will affect their accountability, funding, school improvement and grant-making systems. And, thanks to the new law, states will not be doing this alone – ESSA requires that states design their new systems with input from dozens of stakeholder groups, ranging from teachers to parents to community organizations. But before SEAs reach out to their stakeholders, they should carefully plan their approach to ensure each engagement effort is meaningful, the right people are reached, the right questions are asked, and SEA staff are able to get the information necessary to design the best systems for the students in their state. This tool is meant to inform that planning and provide general guidance, successful examples, and questions for SEAs to consider before stakeholder outreach and engagement begins.

ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES	QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION
<p>1</p> <p>Clarify your goals. Never communicate until you are clear on what you want to say. Align your stakeholder engagement goals to your state's strategic vision and be clear on what you want to accomplish, how stakeholders can inform the state's work, and what action you want stakeholders to take as a result of participating in a discussion or forum.</p> <p> <i>The public originally distrusted Project L.I.F.T., a 2011 initiative to improve schools and close the achievement gap in the Western Charlotte Corridor in North Carolina. Survey results showed that the public did not understand the goals of the effort, incorrectly viewing it as another top-down program. The initiative reframed its messaging to clarify and make it more relevant to parents.¹</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your state's strategic vision, and how do your engagement goals connect to it?• What do you want to learn through the engagement of stakeholders?• What do you want your stakeholders to understand, do or say as a result of this engagement?• How will you know your engagement plan is working?• Who on your staff will be responsible for managing this work?
<p>2</p> <p>Work with partner organizations to identify and engage with your stakeholders. ESSA asks states to engage with a range of stakeholder groups throughout the planning and implementation process, but don't stop there. Think of others whose voices could</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What stakeholder groups do you intend to engage?• What are some stakeholder groups that you have not engaged in the past?