



Every Student Succeeds Act

Teacher Empowerment

The Every Student Succeeds Act ensures that teachers' voices are part of decision-making at the federal, state, and local levels—a major improvement over No Child Left Behind's one-size-fits-all approach to educating students.

KEY PROVISIONS

- ▶ **Moves decision-making** to the people who know the names of the students they educate while maintaining supports that ensure zip codes do not determine the quality of education
- ▶ Incentivizes supports and interventions that are **tailored to local needs** while preserving the historic federal role in protecting the most vulnerable: children in poverty, students with disabilities, and English-language learners
- ▶ Calls for **committees of practitioners** where teachers and paraeducators (with recent classroom experience), parents, and community members can work together to improve their local schools
- ▶ Offers grants that could be used to support initiatives to **increase diversity** in the teaching workforce
- ▶ Makes resources available to states that could be used to develop or strengthen **teacher induction and mentoring programs**
- ▶ Provides a definition of **professional development** embedded in research based on standards developed by teachers—for example, Learning Forward's *Standards for Professional Learning*
- ▶ Allows district funds to be used to enhance **collaboration and teacher-led professional development** aligned with students' learning needs
- ▶ Prohibits the federal government from mandating **teacher evaluations** or defining **teacher effectiveness**
- ▶ Protects existing **collective bargaining** and other legal rights in sections covering:
 - Targeted school supports and improvements in Title I
 - Professional development, pay based on professional growth, the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (formerly called TIF), and all other provisions of contracts impacted by Title II
 - Community schools in Title IV
- ▶ Requires consultation with **organizations representing educators** in multiple places, ensuring that teachers and their local unions have a say in decision-making