

The "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) does provide modifications and flexibilities to states. There is flexibility for states to determine how and when tests are administered. Under ESSA, states must still test students annually in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school.

ESSA leaves accountability goals almost entirely to individual states. Each state must submit their accountability plan to the U.S. Department of Education which has an oversight role. However, there are some requirements as to what accountability goals must include. ESSA provides that test scores and graduation rates be given "much greater weight" than other measures. There is also the continuing expectation that states identify and intervene in struggling schools.

ESSA was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. The law is available online through the U.S. Department of Education at <https://www.ed.gov/ESSA>.

The Massachusetts Consolidated State Plan Under ESSA was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on April 3, 2017 and is available online at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/essa/stateplan/>.