

New Jersey's ESSA State Plan Themes

In 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reauthorized The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. ESSA replaced the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Purpose and Overview

New Jersey's ESSA State Plan describes how New Jersey complies with federal law and explains some of the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) work to ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality educational resources and opportunities.



New Jersey's Approach

A critical function of the NJDOE is identifying which schools need more help supporting all their students and/or specific student groups. All local educational agencies (LEAs), with support from the NJDOE, as needed, are responsible for ensuring schools and students who need the most support equitably receive those resources.

The NJDOE approach is to work side-by-side with LEAs to identify student needs and resource gaps that may be causing performance gaps among student groups and then plan for and implement evidence-based strategies and interventions to address those needs.



A System of Support

The NJDOE diligently collaborates with school and LEA leaders to enhance systems of analysis and progress monitoring to support school and LEA improvement.

Various data points are used to better understand the specific needs of students, identify root causes of performance gaps, and evaluate the effectiveness of previous educational practices for improvement. NJDOE assistance includes additional fiscal support and coaching.



Continuous Improvement

The NJDOE is focused on continuously improving its systems and structures. Although there were formatting changes made to the 2024 ESSA State Plan, the substantive changes to the plan are incremental and informed by stakeholders with diverse perspectives.



Read the [ESSA State Plan](#) on the NJDOE website.

