

WHAT'S NEW IN ESSA?

QUICK FACTS: SPECIAL EDUCATION

QUALIFIED TEACHERS

ESSA removes the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision, instead requiring special education teachers at all levels to obtain full state certification, hold a bachelor's degree, and not have any requirements waived.

CHALLENGING STANDARDS

Schools must offer challenging academic standards and assessments for all students, and continue to offer appropriate accommodations and/or modifications to ensure those with the most significant cognitive disabilities be able to fully participate in assessments.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Parents must be made aware of measurement by alternate standards, and the effect that may have on the student's school experience and graduation, and staff's qualification to provide alternate assessments.

EMPHASIS ON GRADUATION

States may not block a student with cognitive disabilities who take an alternate assessment from attempting to complete coursework in pursuit of a high school diploma.

ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) system has been removed in ESSA. Instead, states create their own accountability system, which must identify groups for comprehensive or targeted support if a subgroup (including students with disabilities) consistently underperforms. States may include student engagement, safety, and school climate in these measures.



For more information on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), visit:
<http://bit.ly/ESSA-WA>