

March 28, 2016

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) *What School Nurses Need to Know*

We are asking you to step up on behalf of students, school nurses, and the larger Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) community. If you follow these three steps your involvement will make an impact.

How does the ESSA change things?

- The law now uses the term, ‘Specialized Instructional Support Personnel,’ defines SISP, and includes SISP more deliberately and strategically in the law.
- The ESSA elevates state and local plans. These plans outline how federal funds will be used locally to achieve broad educational goals with greater latitude given to local leaders.
- Additionally, the new law highlights chronic disease management led by school nurses.

How will the ESSA impact you and your school?

- Every state is required to do a “State Plan” and you can be involved in that as a school nurse and a SISP.
- Most schools (and the state) will have to do a “Needs Assessment” and again, you can and should be involved.

Who are the SISPs?

SISPs refers to school nurses, school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, speech language pathologists, and others involved in providing assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, therapeutic, and other necessary services as part of a comprehensive program to help student success.

What You Can Do:

1. INFORM

Get educated and talk about what a SISP is and how the new law will affect your school.

- Speak at staff meetings, to principals, and with peer groups
- Find out when your PTA and local school boards meet and what they are discussing about ESSA

2. FIND YOUR ALLIES

Identify key local contacts.

- Contact and collaborate with other SISP
- Contact your council member, elected member in the state house and senate, your governor’s office, and state board of education
- Tell your elected officials you want to participate to make a positive impact on all students in the district and the state, and ask who they suggest you should speak to

3. FOLLOW THROUGH



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Find a way to be part of this conversation.

- Contact the person your elected officials suggest
- Get on your PTA's, school board, or town hall agendas
- Write a Letter to the Editor

Get involved in the planning at your school, district, or state level! Share the valuable information you know, as a SISP working in schools, about the range of ways we must engage students so they strive academically.

LEARN MORE

[U.S. Department of Education, Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#)

Learn more about law.

[U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce](#)

See what the members of the Committee on Education and Workforce are doing about ESSA implementation.

[U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions](#)

See what the members of the Senate HELP Committee are doing about ESSA implementation.

[Education Commission of the States](#)

They have compiled a list of e resources to help explain the changes associated with the passage of ESSA.

[National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

Background and additional resources about ESSA.

FIND WHO TO CONTACT

[The Council of Chief State School Officers](#)

Find out who is the Chief State School Officer for your state.

[National Governors Association, Contact](#)

This page catalogs the individuals who perform major functions in a governor's office by state and by position.

[U.S. Department of Education, State Contacts](#)

Find the contact information for your state department of education, higher education agency, special education agency, adult education agency, etc.

[National School Board Association](#)

The National School Board Association has a library of Federal Advocacy Resources, including about ESSA.