

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Turning Legislative Success into Gains for Gifted Learners

Summary of presentation by Jane Clarenbach and M. Rene Islas

ESSA is the 2015 reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESAE)
It replaces No Child Left Behind
For the first time, it addresses the learning needs of Gifted and Talented (GT) students

Data was given for the disparity of GT students identified in subpopulations that supports the "Excellence Gap" as well as the impact of poverty on gifted students.

Only 5 states have policies requiring PD in GT for general education teachers, even though most students receive their education in regular education classrooms.

Specific provisions in ESSA:

Title I: Improving Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged Students

- Allows funds to be used to identify and serve GT students
- Requires disaggregation of student achievement data at each achievement level on state and local report cards
- Allows states to develop computer adaptive assessments for accountability purposes (This means that tests will indicate students performing one or more levels above their current grade.)

Title II: Professional Development

- State plans must address gifted students
- Districts receiving funds under this title must provide training to address the learning needs of GT students
- Districts may provide training to support the identification of GT students

Title IV: 21st Century Schools

- Reauthorization of the Javits Gifted and Talented Student Act
- Focuses on underrepresented GT populations
 - Develops best practices through applied research grants (But this does not include a separate grant program for states.)

Additional Information:

<http://www.nagc.org/get-involved/advocate-high-ability-learners/nagc-advocacy/federal-legislative-update/every-student>