



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 20, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: School Administrators, ESEA Directors, Grant Administrators, Students, Educators, Families, Staff Involved with the Coordination of ESEA Programs
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

United States Department of Education Approves Redlined Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the United States Department of Education's (USED) approval of the redlined changes to the [New Jersey Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) State Plan (State Plan). The State Plan describes New Jersey's approach to meeting federal accountability requirements. The State Plan was first approved by USED in 2017 following the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through ESSA.

As explained through a July 2023 [broadcast](#), the approved redlined changes were limited to: (1) changes needed to reflect the [approved short-term amendments](#) to the State Plan, based on the [2021-2022 Addendum for the Consolidated State Plan due to COVID-19](#); (2) changes made to the current assessment system; (3) changes needed to reflect the [New Jersey Performance Review Report FY 2019](#); and (4) the corrective action plan issued by USED for the Migrant Education Program (MEP) in 2017.

Continually Improving the ESSA State Plan

To ensure the State Plan reflects New Jersey's students' and schools' current needs, the NJDOE is reviewing and revising the entirety of the ESSA State Plan. The NJDOE is inviting diverse groups of stakeholders to discuss ways the NJDOE may continually improve schools that require targeted support and resources. Following meaningful engagement with stakeholders, the NJDOE expects to then submit an updated State Plan to USED in 2024.

Stakeholder Engagement

The NJDOE will convene a central ESSA Stakeholder Working Group that will represent a variety of professional, family, and community organizations. The Stakeholder Working Group will review the NJDOE's proposed changes through a series of alternating in-person and virtual meetings starting the second week in January and occurring through February 2024.

Additionally, individuals interested in engaging on this topic and collaborating with the NJDOE to improve the efficacy of the State Plan may register for upcoming webinars and focus groups, posted on the [NJDOE events page](#). For general ESSA information and resources, please see the [ESSA](#) webpage, and for questions or to sign up for email updates about the ESSA Revision Project please contact essa@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group