

CALIFORNIA SENATE OFFICE OF RESEARCH

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Federal Update

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION— THE NEW ESSA

The nation has a new federal education law. On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Public Law No: 114–95), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

ESSA replaces the highly unpopular No Child Left Behind Act, which was criticized for its one-size-fits-all approach to school accountability and improvement. Under ESSA, states will design their school accountability systems consistent with broad federal parameters.

Information about ESSA is available at the following Web-sites:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1177/all-info>

(Congress.gov is the official Web site for U.S. federal legislative information)

http://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/esea_conference_report_summary.pdf

(U.S. Congress Conference Committee summary)

<http://www.ed.gov/essa>

(U.S. Department of Education)

Written by Jody Martin. The California Senate Office of Research is a nonpartisan office charged with serving the research needs of the California State Senate and assisting Senate members and committees with the development of effective public policy. The office was established by the Senate Rules Committee in 1969. For more information, please visit <http://sor.senate.ca.gov> or call (916) 651-1500.
