

*From the top of Illinois, we are preparing today's learners for tomorrow's world by  
empowering all to reach their full potential.*

## ***Every Student Succeeds Act***

President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law in December 2015. Over the past three years, Illinois has been working with the U.S. Department of Education to develop a plan for Illinois that complies with the requirements of ESSA. Illinois has the following vision under this plan: Illinois is a state of whole, healthy children nested in whole, healthy systems supporting communities wherein all citizens are socially and economically secure.

As part of the Illinois ESSA plan, every student in each public school deserves to attend school systems in which:

- All kindergartners are assessed for readiness.
- Ninety percent or more of third-graders are reading at or above grade level.
- Ninety percent or more of fifth-graders meet or exceed expectations in mathematics.
- Ninety percent or more of ninth-graders are on track to graduate with their cohort.
- Ninety percent or more of students graduate from high school ready for college and career.
- All students are supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- Every school offers a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

In order to assess whether schools are meeting these goals, the state will begin to assess schools in a different way beginning in 2018-19. Based on these accountability indicators schools will be designated into one of four tiers. The accountability factors are broken down into two areas, academic indicators and school quality/student success indicators. The Illinois State Board of Education has a number of resources for parents and families regarding the ESSA plan for Illinois on their website at:

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ESSA-State-Plan.aspx>

Academic indicators will include student scores on the State assessment test and DLM, student growth based on a linear regression, ACCESS scores for districts with English language learners, and science assessment scores. At the high school level, the academic indicators will include the SAT, graduation rates, English Language learners proficiency where applicable, and science assessment scores.

School quality indicators for K-8 students will include attendance, climate survey results from the 5Essentials, fine arts, P-2 indicators, and elementary/middle level indicators. At the high school level the indicators include attendance, ninth graders on track to graduate with their cohort, the 5Essentials survey, and fine arts.

Take some time to look at the ISBE ESSA page from the link above. We will keep our families aware of any changes necessary to be in compliance with ESSA and to support our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Caron  
Superintendent

*We believe our District is the heart of our community where pride, family, and tradition beat strong.  
We believe in working together in a safe healthy environment demonstrating respect, integrity and teamwork.  
We believe in challenging innovative learners by promoting creative and critical thinkers.*