

# N-Size in ESSA State Plans **UPDATED**



Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states are responsible for setting the minimum number of students needed to form a student subgroup for federal accountability and reporting purposes. This required student subgroup size is commonly referred to as the state-set “n-size.” The accountability n-size affects *action* by influencing how many students receive additional support if they demonstrate low performance. Meanwhile, the reporting n-size affects *information* by influencing the number of students upon which public information on school performance is based. States should set their n-size as low as possible to maximize the number of students eligible for support and included in public information about school performance. This will ensure that states identify student subgroups with low academic performance and/or low high school graduation rates and provide targeted support to the schools those students attend. The chart below updates information from the 2016 Alliance for Excellent Education (All4Ed) report *Ensuring Equity in ESSA: The Role of N-Size in Subgroup Accountability*. It includes the state-set n-size for accountability and reporting purposes found in ESSA state plans approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and highlighted in All4Ed’s ESSA Equity Dashboards. To learn more about individual state ESSA policies, visit [all4ed.org/essa/essa-in-your-state/](http://all4ed.org/essa/essa-in-your-state/).

■ States with N-Size of 10 or Less      ■ States with N-Size Between 11 and 25      ■ States with N-Size of 26 or More

State	N-Size for Accountability in ESSA State Plan	N-Size for Reporting in ESSA State Plan
Alaska <sup>a</sup>	10	5
District of Columbia	10	10
Florida	10	10
Kentucky	10	10
Louisiana	10	10
Maine	10	10
Maryland <sup>b</sup>	10	10
Mississippi	10	10
Montana	10	10
Nebraska	10	10
North Dakota <sup>c</sup>	10	10
Oklahoma <sup>d</sup>	10	10
Puerto Rico	10	10
South Dakota <sup>e</sup>	10	10
Utah	10	10
Wyoming	10	10
New Hampshire	11	11
Arkansas	15	10
Delaware	15	15
Georgia <sup>f</sup>	15	15
Ohio <sup>g</sup>	15	10
Colorado <sup>h</sup>	16/20	16/20
Alabama	20	10
Arizona	20	20
Connecticut	20	20
Hawaii	20	20

State	N-Size for Accountability in ESSA State Plan	N-Size for Reporting in ESSA State Plan
Idaho	20	5
Illinois	20	10
Indiana	20	10
Iowa	20	10
Massachusetts <sup>i</sup>	20	6/10
Minnesota	20	10
New Jersey	20	10
New Mexico <sup>j</sup>	20	10
Oregon <sup>k</sup>	20	10
Pennsylvania	20	20
Rhode Island	20	10
South Carolina	20	20
Washington <sup>l</sup>	20	10
West Virginia	20	10
Wisconsin	20	20
Nevada <sup>m</sup>	25	10
Texas <sup>n</sup>	25	25
Vermont <sup>o</sup>	25	11
California	30	11
Kansas	30	10
Michigan	30	10
Missouri	30	10
New York <sup>p</sup>	30	5
North Carolina	30	10
Tennessee	30	10
Virginia	30	10

Source: Accountability and reporting n-sizes under ESSA obtained from ESSA state plans approved by ED, available at <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/statesubmission.html> (accessed October 16, 2018).

## Notes

- <sup>a</sup> Alaska combines three years of data for accountability purposes; therefore, the state applies an n-size of 10 students over three years rather than an n-size of 10 students for each individual year.
- <sup>b</sup> For accountability purposes, Maryland uses an n-size of 30 students for high school graduation rates and 10 students for other accountability indicators.
- <sup>c</sup> For those schools that do not meet the minimum n-size of 10 students for accountability purposes in a single year, North Dakota aggregates up to three years of data to reach the minimum n-size of 10 students.
- <sup>d</sup> For those schools that do not meet the minimum n-size of 10 students for accountability purposes in a single year, Oklahoma aggregates up to three years of data to reach a minimum n-size of 30 students.
- <sup>e</sup> South Dakota applies an n-size of 10 students over three years for the student achievement and English language proficiency indicators rather than an n-size of 10 students for each individual year.
- <sup>f</sup> For reporting purposes, Georgia uses an n-size of 15 students for accountability reports and an n-size of 10 students for the state report card.
- <sup>g</sup> Ohio's n-size of 15 students for accountability purposes will be phased in over three school years. The n-size will be 25 students in School Year (SY) 2017–18, 20 students in SY 2018–19, and 15 students in SY in 2019–20.
- <sup>h</sup> For accountability and reporting purposes, Colorado uses an n-size of 16 students to monitor academic achievement and high school graduation rates of student subgroups and an n-size of 20 students to monitor growth in academic achievement for student subgroups. The state will aggregate data across three years for those schools that do not meet the minimum n-size for accountability purposes using a single year of data.
- <sup>i</sup> Massachusetts uses an n-size of 6 students for reporting enrollment, dropout, and high school graduation rate data for student subgroups and an n-size of 10 students for reporting assessment result data for student subgroups.
- <sup>j</sup> New Mexico uses an n-size of 20 students to identify schools for targeted support, an n-size of 30 students for testing participation rates, and no minimum n-size for calculating student growth or proficiency.
- <sup>k</sup> For those schools that do not meet the minimum n-size of 20 students for accountability purposes in a single year, Oregon aggregates three years of data to reach the minimum n-size of 20 students.
- <sup>l</sup> Washington combines three years of data for accountability purposes; therefore, the state applies an n-size of 20 students over three years rather than an n-size of 20 students for each individual year.
- <sup>m</sup> Nevada uses an n-size of 25 students to identify schools for targeted support and an n-size of 10 students to determine school ratings.
- <sup>n</sup> For accountability purposes, Texas uses an n-size of 25 students for evaluating student subgroups. However, to ensure that small schools are included in the accountability system, Texas uses an n-size of 10 students for evaluating the "all students" group. For those schools that do not meet the minimum n-size of 10 students for the "all students" group, Texas averages data over three years. This policy conflicts with ESSA, which requires that the minimum n-size for "all students" and each student subgroup be the same.
- <sup>o</sup> Vermont combines three years of data for accountability purposes; therefore, the state applies an n-size of 25 students over three years rather than an n-size of 25 students for each individual year.
- <sup>p</sup> New York uses an n-size of 40 students for monitoring testing participation rates.



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