

School Improvement under ESSA



ALLIANCE FOR
EXCELLENT EDUCATION

Webinar Presentation with the National Urban League

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ESSA State Plans



- All states (and DC and Puerto Rico) have approved ESSA plans
- Plans contain details of states' accountability, school rating, and school identification systems, including how schools are identified for support and improvement
 - BUT ... stay vigilant about implementation of these systems! At least 11 states have already filed amendments to their ESSA plans and some states are not following their ESSA plans (even if the state hasn't submitted an amendment).
- Plans DO NOT say very much about how identified schools will be supported and what resources those schools will receive

What are states doing now?



All states have:

- Released at least one year of school ratings based on their ESSA accountability system (2018-19 school year)
- Identified the first cohorts of schools for comprehensive and targeted support (identified in 2018-2019)
 - In 2019-20, identified schools may be in a planning year, or may begin implementing an improvement plan

States are now identifying schools for 2019-20 school year.

All4Ed Project (supported by Kellogg): Subgroup Inclusion in Implementation



Focus Questions:

- Do school ratings reflect achievement and outcomes for historically underserved subgroups of students?
- Did states adequately identify schools with struggling subgroups for support and improvement?

States in Analysis:

- AZ, CT, FL, IN, LA, MI, MS, NM, OH, and WA

Initial Findings about School Identification



- Proportion of schools identified for support varies **WIDELY** across states; in other words, zip code matters a LOT!
- In some states, schools with struggling students were overlooked for support
- "Students with disabilities" was the most common group of struggling students in targeted support schools



*Using ESSA to Redesign
High Schools to
Support Their
Communities in the
21st Century*



Redesigning High Schools for the 21st Century

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How Do We Know, What we Know?

* Initial lessons learned from the Cross State High School Collaborative is using ESSA to redesign high-needs high schools to support their communities in the 21st Century

Includes seven participating states:

- Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio and
 - The Everyone Graduates Center at JHU, CCSSO, CIVIC, with support from XQ Super Schools Institute
- * 20 Years research to practice experience with High School reform



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Remaining Low Performing High Schools- Are Challenging To Improve

Economically and Socially Isolated Communities, Schools & Students

- The **Low Performing** high schools that remain and will be identified as in need of comprehensive improvement through ESSA have some things in common:
 - **Located in** economically and socially challenged locales-30% in large cities, but most in inner-ring suburbs, struggling towns, and rural area
 - **Intense** concentrations of **student need**
 - **Limited organic capacity** to respond to that need and bring additional resources into their schools
 - **Have been constantly “reforming” but not succeeding**, notwithstanding pressure
 - **Proud History** -- many were and remain the center of their community with notable local alumni



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A New Approach to HS Design is Needed

- Hopeful, positive, future-orientated frame-designing a school for the 21st century
- Goal is not a high school diploma, but strong pathways through high school to postsecondary and adult success for all students
- Evidence-based, but locally customized/orientated – there is a knowledge base we should build from but one size does not fit all



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New Approach to HS Design cont.

- Redesigning alone is very difficult- break social isolation and share know-how via networks of schools engaged in similar work.
- Reclaim core purpose of neighborhood high schools- make redesigning high school's **the center of community development and social integration efforts**



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Comprehensive Approach to School Redesign Focuses on Four Levers of Improvement that Schools Can Control/Influence

1. Organizing Adults and the School for Success
2. Improving Teaching and Learning
3. Better Supporting Students
4. Creating a Can-Do Culture which Provides Universal Access to Post-Secondary Experiences, Pathways, and Partners



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In Each of These Areas

- Need to implement evidence-based practices and their supporting structures
- Also have to engineer key mind set shifts; otherwise new practices will not be sustained
- Balance the tensions between evidence-based practices and understand how they interact with your working realities.



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To Redesign Our High Schools We Need to Examine our Current Beliefs

- We need to understand the our existing high schools in both obvious and subtle ways shape and limit our thinking of what is possible
- They provide our mental models of what teaching and learning look like, and how students, teachers, and administrators should act
- For example, they lead us to believe that human interactions should be determined by roles, rather than relationships



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School Redesign Challenge-

Local customization built upon an evidence-based foundation



CIVIC

EVERYONE
GRADUATES
CENTER

CCSSO
Council of Chief State School Officers



Teaching & Learning

Evidenced-Based Practices

Evidence-Based Instructional Program Aligned with College & Career Readiness with Accelerated Learning Supports for Students who Need Them

Creating Challenging AND Caring Classrooms

Follow the Evidence—Use the Learning Sciences

Formative Assessments to Tailor Instruction and Supports

Integrating Social, Emotional, and Academic Development

Supporting Structures

Professional Learning Communities

Instructional Coaches

Collaborative Planning During School Day

Standards-Based Grading and Competency-Based Learning

Personalized Learning Opportunities

Microcredentials

Experiential Learning for Teachers

Influencing Factors

Student Data, Student Needs, Student Voices

Teacher Capacities

Community Opportunity



TEACHING & LEARNING

Supported, Engaged, and Challenged

from

to

"You're on your own"
Mistake = BAD
Assessment of Learning
Behavioristic Approach
One Way for All
Predetermined Professional Growth Pathways
Ritualized Performance



Collective Efficacy
Mistake = LEARNING
Assessment for Learning
Learning Scientists & Activators
Choice, Autonomy, Purpose
Continual Professional Growth Pathways, Learning Community, Culture
Competency, Attaining Something Worthwhile



Students at the Center

Evidenced-Based Practices

**Positive Developmental Relationships
with Adults**

**Early Warning and Multi-Tiered Student Response
Systems & Community Support**

**Building Hope, Purpose, and Agency &
Social Emotional Learnings**

Restorative Practices

Student Voice

**Common Academic and Behavioral Expectations
Classroom to Classroom**

Supporting Structures

**Rituals, Routines, Surveys, Student Advisory,
Student Leadership**

Academies, Student Cohorts

**Interdisciplinary Teams,
Common Practice Time**

Report Card Conferences

Advisory, POD, Crew, PACK

Freshman Seminar

Success Mentors

Influencing Factors

Student Data, Student Needs, Student Voices

Teacher Capacities

Community Opportunity



STUDENTS AT THE CENTER

Hope, Agency, Trust & Relationships

from

to

I am not a social worker!
"Those" People
Data for Accountability
Punitive
Deficit
Fixed Mindset
Shame
"Half-Empty" Pessimism



How can I help?
We are the People
Data for Improvement
Restorative
Asset-Based
Growth Mindset
Hope
"Half-Full" Optimism

What should advocates do?



- **Understand the results of your school improvement system**
 - How many schools are identified for each type of support?
 - Are there poorly rated schools that aren't identified? Why?
- **Find out where your state is in the school improvement process**
 - Have the state/districts approved improvement plans?
 - Are identified schools implementing plans this year? Using a planning year?
 - How is the state distributing federal improvement resources?
- **Advocate to strengthen your state's system**
 - Use examples from other states that do it better! (Call All4Ed!)
 - Make a plan for legislative/budget sessions!

If you need help!



To view Alliance ESSA resources, please visit:

www.all4ed.org/essa

Questions?

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School Improvement in ESSA Implementation

Webinar Presentation with the Alliance for Excellent Education

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In April 2019, the National Urban League published a report that tracked the equity commitments states made in their state plans under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), including their commitment to provide supports and interventions to schools in need of improvement.





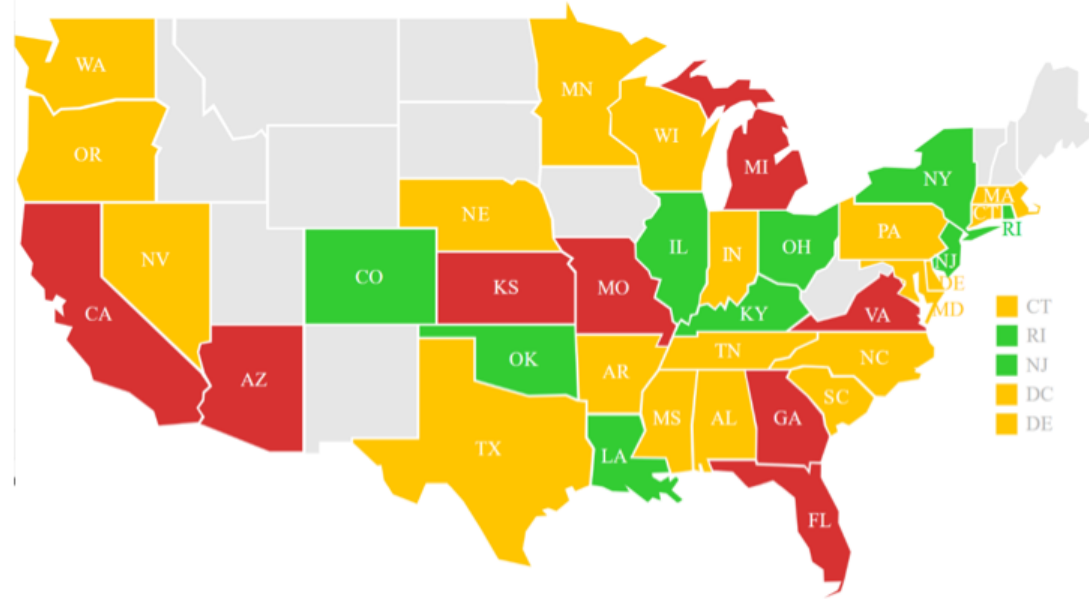
National
Urban League

NUL Equity Report Cards

Green: Excellent – strong start – made the most of opportunities to advance equity with a small number of areas for urgent attention; *9 states*

Yellow: Sufficient – adequate attention to equity, several missed opportunities, a few areas for urgent attention; *20 states*

Red: Poor – missed opportunities to advance equity in a majority of areas, several needing urgent attention; *8 states*



Find your state's report card at
www.naturbanleague.org



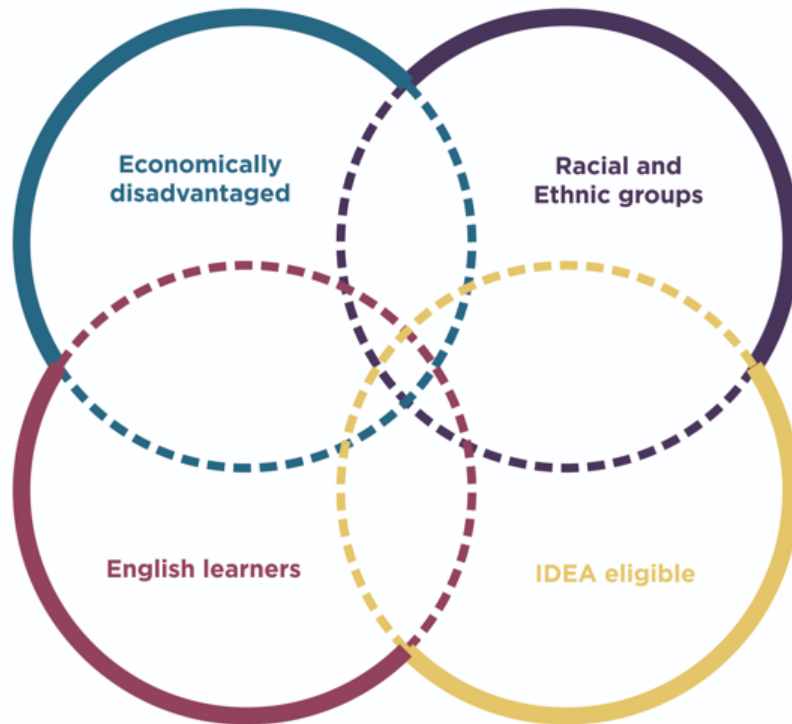
ESSA requires that states:

- 1) set minimum performance standards for all students and subgroups of students
- 2) identify schools that are not meeting these standards
- 3) provide appropriate supports and interventions for identified schools

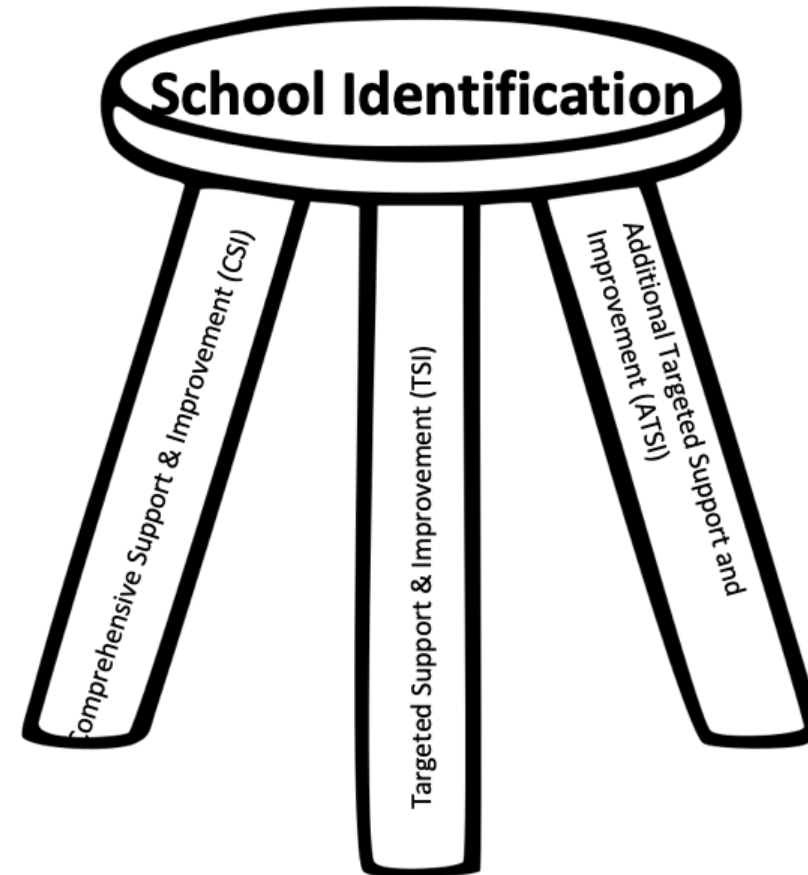


DISAGGREGATION

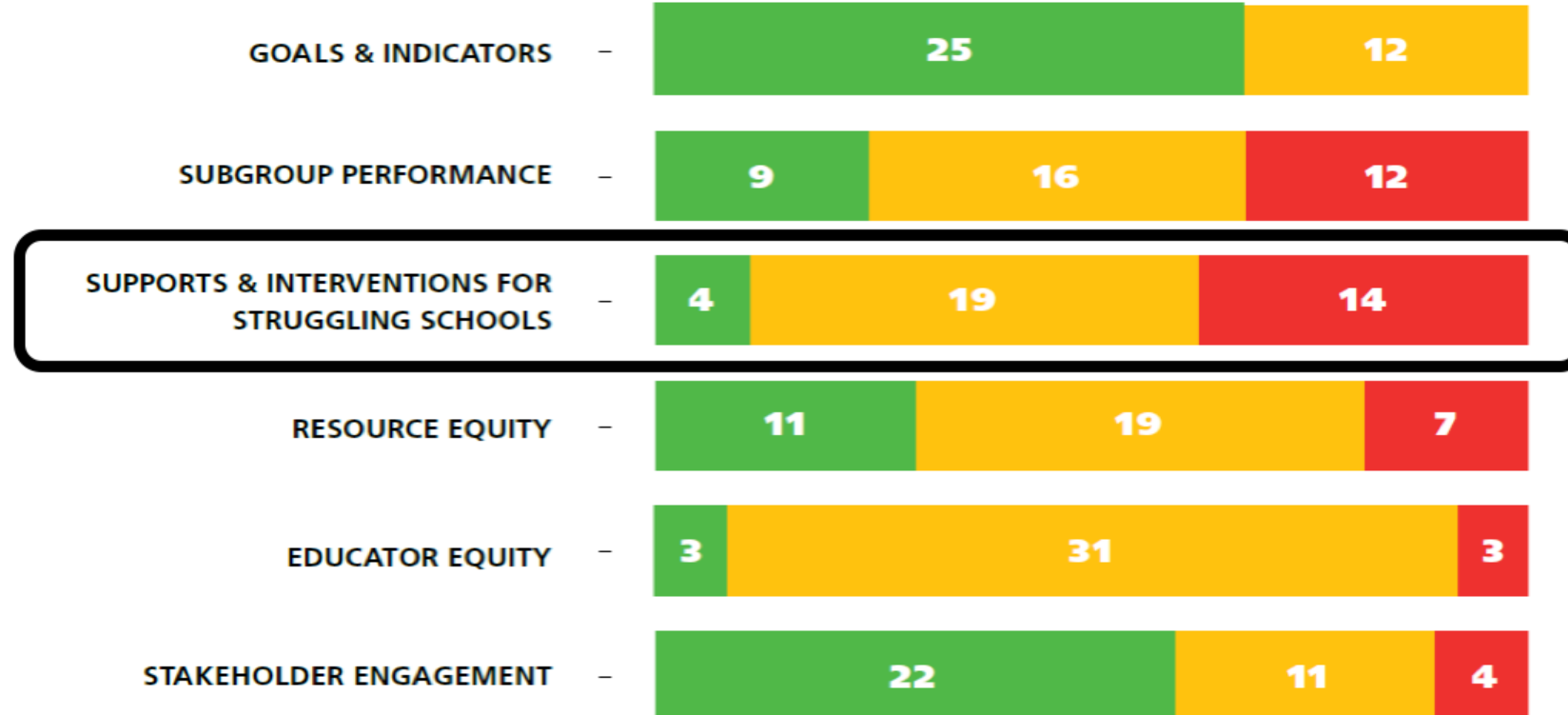
Each indicator of the state accountability system must be separately reported by these student subgroups:



Students are counted in every applicable subgroup.



14 states failed to meaningfully differentiate schools in need of supports and interventions



Why School Identification Matters

