

Executive Summary: Amendment to the Illinois Every Student Succeeds Act Plan

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)¹ requires states submit an amendment to their state plan when a State makes significant changes to its plan at any time, such as the adoption of new challenging State academic standards or new and required academic assessments for the purposes of federal accountability requirements.

With the adoption of a new high school accountability assessment that satisfies both federal accountability requirements as well as the state requirement in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5 that a high school assessment “be recognized by this State’s public institutions of higher education, as defined in the Board of Higher Education Act, for the purpose of student application of admissions consideration,” ISBE must amend its state plan before its spring administration of the ACT.

The amendment of a state plan for “significant changes” is also an opportunity to “be periodically reviewed and revised as necessary by the State educational agency to reflect changes in the State’s strategies and programs”².

ISBE will propose one substantive change and a variety of elective programmatic changes:

Substantive Change (Required by ESSA Section 1111(a)(6)(B)(i))

- Change the high school accountability assessment from the SAT to the ACT in grade 11 and note that the science portion of the ACT fulfills the science assessment requirement.

Programmatic Changes (Elective)

- Change references to IL-EMPOWER to School/District Improvement and update language to reflect contemporary programming.
 - Rationale: Updating the name reduces confusion in the field and helps districts and schools more effectively access available supports.
- Update references to the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to Perkins V, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.
 - Rationale: The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 was reauthorized as Perkins V in 2018.
- Update the description of the Resource Allocation Review to reflect contemporary programming.
 - Rationale: The section previously described the resource allocation reviews as envisioned. The updated description describes the reviews as implemented.
- Add the Middle Eastern or North African demographic group to the list of student groups included in the accountability system³.
 - Rationale: Necessary to align with the Office of Management and Budget’s Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.
- Make other minor descriptive or stylistic updates to reflect contemporary usage and practice.
 - Rationale: To improve consistency in communication across agency programs and publications.

¹ Public Law No. 114-95 (2015), Section 1111(a)(6)(B)(i)

² Public Law No. 114-95 (2015), Section 1111(a)(6)(A)(ii)