



Illinois State Board of Education

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization bill as signed into law on December 10, 2015. The summary is not intended to be comprehensive, but provides an overview of the statute including major changes and highlighting provisions the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) finds to be positive. This was a collaborative effort with multiple individuals throughout the agency; in particular, expertise was provided by the following individuals: David Andel, Jeff Aranowski, Angela Chamness, Mark Gibbs, Jason Helfer, Reyna Hernandez, Tim Imler, Robin Lisboa, David Nieto, Julia Oltmanns, Matt Ulmer, Dora Welker, and Melina Wright. See the topic list at the end of this document for the individual contact person for a particular section.

POSITIVE PROVISIONS:

Below are some positive provisions within ESSA:

- **More State authority on standards, assessments, and interventions:** Illinois can continue its work to develop a comprehensive accountability system building on the Illinois Balanced Accountability Measure (IBAM) signed into law by Governor Rauner in July of 2015. The State will have more flexibility to identify schools that have not met state-determined standards—but most importantly, the State will have access to more fiscal resources to assist and support those schools through comprehensive, locally driven transformation.
- **Maintains support for Illinois at-risk students:** Title I-A funding is maintained, ensuring that Illinois' at-risk schools and students will continue receiving needed federal support. In FY16, Illinois will receive \$627,541,589 to support low-income students and schools.
- **Continues ongoing investments in Illinois preschool:** The law enables continuation of our Preschool Development Program: a four-year, \$80 million grant to Illinois that supports expansion of pre-school to vulnerable students who lack access to other programs.
- **Stronger focus on homeless students:** An emphasis is placed on continuing to remove barriers homeless students face in our schools. In particular, the law supports Illinois' ongoing work to ensure that very young homeless children have adequate access to public preschool programs.
- **Subgroup performance:** The law ensures that Illinois must measure the performance of low-income, minority, and English language learning students. Illinois' modern report cards will continue to provide communities this important information to drive improvement.