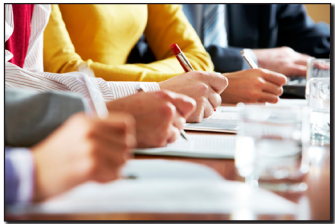




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TransACT Launches the ESSA National Advisory Board

March 2016 saw the inaugural meeting of the ESSA National Advisory Board. Learn more about our goal to produce a comprehensive solution for compliance-based parent communication, supporting federal, state and local level requirements (see page 3).

TransACT® for English Learners

The new TransACT for English Learners collection aligns with the new USED-DOJ guidance for serving English Learners. This collection is available in 10 languages (see page 4).



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Reauthorization: Changes to English Learner Requirements in the ESSA

By Dr. David Holbrook

The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is the long awaited reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), brings with it some significant changes to requirements for English Learners (ELs). Here are the highlights of these changes:

English Language Proficiency Standards and Assessment

Under the previous reauthorization of ESEA, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Title III required the adoption of English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards. Title III also required the annual assessment of ELP for all Title III students. In addition, Title I required that all ELs be assessed annually for ELP.

Under ESSA, ELP standards and the annual ELP assessment are required under Title I, but no longer under Title III. There are reporting requirements under Title III that are directly related to the ELP assessment required under Title I, but the requirement to test the ELP of ELs is no longer a direct mandate of Title III. Title III does, however, require that districts ensure that all ELs served by Title III participate in the ELP assessment required under Title I.

English Learner Accountability

Under NCLB, EL accountability was found mostly in Title III and known as AMAOs (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives). These included measures of progress toward attainment of English proficiency, measures of attainment of English proficiency, and the same measure of academic achievement as required by Title I's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the EL subgroup.

Under ESSA, all EL accountability is moved to Title I. There are no EL accountability measures required by Title III. Title III activities, however, should be designed in such a way as to help ELs meet the long-term goals for ELs established under Title I. Accountability determinations for ELs, using the Title I indicator of progress toward English proficiency, will be made in the 'tested' grades only (grades 3-8 and once in high school).

Reporting of EL data

Under NCLB, the reporting of EL data was required under Title I and Title III, but there was a significant section of Title III (section 3121) that described the data that was to be included in a biennial evaluation of Title III programs. Some of the data required for this evaluation included measures of progress of ELs toward ELP, measures of EL attainment of ELP, and measures of academic achievement of ELs (proficiency on the academic content assessment) for two years after exiting EL status.

The section in Title III (section 3121) that was titled "Evaluations" under NCLB is now titled "Reporting" under ESSA. It includes changes to the data to be reported. While ESSA still requires reporting on measures of progress toward achieving ELP, this data must also be disaggregated for ELs with disabilities. Interestingly, measures of ELs attainment of ELP must also be reported, but there is no requirement to disaggregate this by ELs with disabilities. Measures of the academic achievement (meeting academic standards) of ELs that have exited EL status is required, but for four years, extending the NCLB requirement for two more years, and this data must be disaggregated by ELs with disabilities. And finally, there is a new data-reporting requirement for ELs in ESSA. Long-term EL reporting is now required. Districts must report the number and percentage of ELs served by Title III that have not attained ELP within 5 years of initial classification as an EL.

Required Title III Activities

Under NCLB there were two activities that districts that received Title III funds were required to implement. They were programs to help ELs increase ELP & improve academic achievement and the provision of EL related professional development. Under ESSA there are now three required activities (i.e. three activities that Title III funded districts must spend Title III funds on). The third activity is to provide and implement parent, family, and community engagement activities.

EL Identification and Placement Parent Notification

It is interesting to note that in Title III under NCLB, section 3302 provided requirements for EL Parent Notifications and EL Parent Involvement. This entire section has been removed from Title III. Under ESSA, a section with nearly identical wording is found in Title I. So the requirement to notify parents when their student(s) have been identified as eligible for or placed in Title I or Title III EL programs is now part of Title I.

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Entry and Exit Procedures

Under NCLB, there were no state level requirements to establish and implement standardized statewide entrance and exit procedures for EL programs. This is now included in ESSA. In addition, under ESSA, this new requirement includes that all students who may be English learners are assessed for such status within 30 days of enrollment in a school in the State.

Note, these are the federal requirements and they may or may not align with your state's requirements.

Stay tuned, TransACT will provide updates and additional information as we transition to ESSA. If you have questions, contact us at 425.977.2100 or email at support@transact.com.

TransACT Launches the ESSA National Advisory Board

March 2016 saw the inaugural meeting of the ESSA National Advisory Board. The purpose of the ESSA National Advisory Board (NAB) is to provide feedback and guidance for the development of parent notices required under ESEA, as amended by ESSA. The goal is to produce a comprehensive solution for compliance-based parent communication and guidance that will support federal, state and local level requirements.

Here's what you need to know:

1. The ESSA NAB met via webinar on March 31st to discuss the objectives of the board and lay the groundwork for future meetings and activities.
2. The board is comprised of approximately 40 State and District administrators working in a broad range of federal programs.
3. There's room for more. If you would like to be part of the ESSA National Advisory Board, contact Dr. David Holbrook at david@transact.com.

ESSA National Advisory Board

Members of this advisory board have been asked to participate in 12 monthly webinar-based meetings of approximately 60 minutes in duration. During the webinars we identify issues and process potential solutions. The ESSA National Advisory Board is charged with shaping the path for successful ESSA parent communication.

The first meeting of the ESSA NAB took place March 31st and was attended by approximately 75% of board members. ESSA NAB meetings are recorded so that those that are unable to attend can view them later at a convenient time.

Information presented at this first meeting included some background information and a review of the history of the National Advisory Board, which was first created when NCLB was authorized. In addition, TransACT shared the draft list of almost 90 parent notice compliance documents that it has identified that are either required or allowable under the ESSA. During our next meeting we will be establishing groups that will review specific documents based on NAB member content expertise.

The ESSA National Advisory Board is led by David Holbrook, Ph.D., Executive Director, Federal Programs for TransACT Communications, LLC. Dr. Holbrook has nearly six years experience in Wyoming as Federal Programs Division Director, Title I Director and Title III Director where he helped districts understand and implement their core English learner (EL) programs and supplemental Title I and Title III EL services. Dr. Holbrook also trained with the U.S. Department of Education as a Title III consultant and helped monitor Title III in five states over a two-year period.

First draft of the 87 identified ESSA notices have been drafted. It is anticipated that near final drafts for all ESSA required documents will be completed by June 30th. If you are interested in being part of this exciting opportunity, please contact Dr. David Holbrook at david@transact.com.

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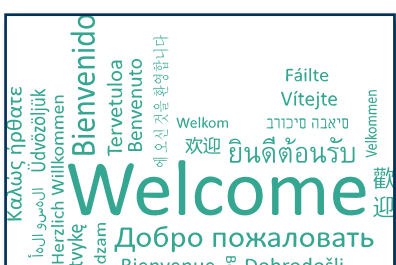
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