The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Developing a new accountability system for the District of Columbia
Overview of ESSA

The District is developing a new accountability system for all public schools (DCPS and Public charters) under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We want a system that meets the needs of ALL District students. We need your help!

What is ESSA?
- ESSA is a new, bipartisan K-12 federal education law signed by President Obama in 2015. It starts in the 2017-18 school year.
- ESSA rolls back the federal government’s input into education policy, enabling states and local education agencies (LEA’s) to call the shots.
- We must still give students standardized tests and report the results, including for specific groups like English Language Learners.
- School accountability systems must now include a non-academic measure, like reenrollment, in addition to statistics like test scores and graduation rates.
- ESSA requires states to intervene and support their lowest-performing schools.
STAR – Elementary Schools and K-8 with Pre-K

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (40%)
- PARCC 4+ (25) ELA Math
- PARCC 3+ (15) ELA Math

ACADEMIC GROWTH (40%)
- Median Growth Percentile (20) ELA MATH
- Growth to Proficiency Metric (20) ELA MATH

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT (15%)
- 90% + Attendance* (7.5)
- In Seat Attendance* (3.75)
- Re-enrollment* (3.75)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (5%)
- ACCESS Growth (5)

*Weights will be set proportionally based on the percentage of students in pre-K versus other grades; methodology TBD.
STAR – Middle School

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (40%)
- PARCC 4+ (25) ELA Math
- PARCC 3+ (15) ELA Math

ACADEMIC GROWTH (40%)
- Median Growth Percentile (20) ELA MATH
- Growth to Proficiency Metric (20) ELA MATH

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT (15%)
- 90% + Attendance (7.5)
- In Seat Attendance (3.75)
- Re-enrollment (3.75)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (5%)
- ACCESS Growth (5)
STAR – High School

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (40%)**
- PARCC 4+ (15) ELA Math
- ACT/SAT (15) College-ready 50th Percentile Threshold
- PARCC 3+ (10) ELA Math
- AP/IB (10) Participation Performance

**SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT (15%)**
- 90% + Attendance (7.5)
- In Seat Attendance (3.75)
- Re-enrollment (3.75)

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (5%)**
- ACCESS Growth (5)

**GRADUATION RATE (20%)**
- 4-Year Graduation Rate (10)
- 5-Year Graduation Rate (6)
- Alternate Graduation Metric (4)
Key Questions for Discussion

Where Are We Now
- Our current system overwhelmingly emphasizes test results.
- There is no consistent way to compare public schools between traditional and charter sectors.

Where We Want to Be
- A system that parents, students and teachers can use across the District.
- Supports and interventions to help schools make progress.

We Need to Hear From You
- How much should this system weight academic outcomes and other sources of information on school performance?
- How much should this system should weight growth vs. proficiency?
- What other indicator related to school environment is important to you e.g. attendance, reenrollment, school discipline?