

3 Ways to Engage in New ESSA Report Cards

PTA and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires for parents to be involved in the development of state report cards that provide valuable information on student performance and progress, including graduation rates, measures of school quality and classroom environments, and access to experienced teachers. The law also directs states and school districts to develop publicly available report cards that are easy to understand and accessible to parents and families with disabilities and limited English proficiency.



What steps can you take as a parent, guardian or family member to get involved in the development of new state and school based report cards aligned to ESSA?

IDENTIFY where your state is in the development of new ESSA aligned report cards.

- Reach out to your state PTA leaders to determine if and how the state PTA has been engaged in the process.
- Find your state's current report card by visiting your state department of education website. Most states provide state reports cards along with district and school report cards all in one location that allow parents and families to see how schools are performing in their community.
- Contact your state education department to learn more about the design process. Most states have a dedicated ESSA email address or point of contact. Email or call that individual to find out the next steps for the development of ESSA aligned report cards.

GET INVOLVED in the development of new ESSA aligned report cards.

- Here are some questions you can ask on the development of ESSA aligned report cards:
 - ✓ What is the timeline and process for gathering feedback from parents on the report card design?
 - ✓ How will parents and families be notified about the opportunity to get involved in helping to develop new report cards?
 - ✓ Where will the report card be located on the state education agency website? Will it be easy to locate?
 - ✓ How will parents and families without internet access be able to access report cards? Will a hard copy be available?
 - ✓ What languages will the report card be translated into?
 - ✓ What accommodations will be made to the report card for parents with a disability?

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GO TO PTA.org/ESSA to learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and join PTA's advocacy network at **PTA.org/TakesAction** to get up to date information on ESSA and how you can continue to be involved.



Want to Learn More?

READ these resources to find out how good report cards can help you make better decisions concerning your child's educational opportunities and be a more effective advocate.

- [A State Guide to Building Online Report Cards](#), Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), Collaborative Communications, Data Quality Campaign (DQC), ExceLinED, Learning Heroes, and National PTA
- [Sample School Report Card](#), Learning Heroes
- [Show Me the Data: State Report Cards Must Answer Questions and Inform Action](#), DQC
- [Quality Public Reporting Informs Decisions, Empowers Action](#), DQC, Great Schools!, National Association for Secondary School Principals (NASSP), National PTA, National School Boards Association (NSBA), Students First
- [What is in ESSA?: Public Reporting](#), Education Trust
- [School report cards don't matter if parents can't find them](#), The Thomas B. Fordham Institute
- [Guidelines for SEAs on Engaging Parents](#), CCSSO, Learning Heroes, and National PTA
- [Framework for Meaningful Parent Engagement Under ESSA](#), CCSSO, Learning Heroes, and National PTA



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