

# ESSA: The promise of a more equitable education

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law by President Obama in 2015, was designed to create equal opportunities for all students by:

- **Closing gaps:** Creating strategies to address persistent achievement gaps within the lowest performing schools in each state
- **Targeting low performing schools:** Holding schools accountable where students aren't making progress and graduation rates are low
- **Supporting newcomers:** Increasing services and reporting on learning progress for English Learners
- **Protecting students living in poverty and students with exceptionalities:** Upholding protections for disadvantaged and high-need students
- **Preparing students for college and careers:** Requiring schools to ensure that students are graduating from high school ready for college and careers
- **Tracking progress:** Tracking student progress in meeting new academic standards through annual statewide assessments
- **Strengthening Pre-K:** Strengthening preschool programs and better aligning preschool with K-12 education

## Key ESSA terms

**College and Career Readiness (CCR)** ESSA says that whatever standards the state uses, they must prepare all students for success after high school. The law states that college and career preparation activities could include internships, college and career counseling, and higher level classes, resources previously available only to particularly privileged or high achieving students.

**English Learners (EL)** ESSA defines an "English learner" as an individual who is not yet able to meet challenging state academic standards when tested in English.

**Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)** Includes the **lowest performing 5%** of Title I schools and **ALL** high schools with **graduation rates below 67%**. For these schools, districts must develop improvement plans.

**Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)** Schools where one or more groups of students are consistently underperforming.

**Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)** Schools that have one or more groups of students whose performance would place them in the bottom 5% of Title I schools.

Overall, ESSA is designed to ensure that every student has access to a high quality education, regardless of ZIP code or skin color, and that strategies to engage families and communities are central to school improvement efforts.

## How will this change what my child experiences in school?

While students will still take assessments in math and English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3-8 and grades 10 or 11, they will also likely be measured more frequently on other competencies related to college and career readiness (such as social and emotional learning, or knowledge of career options and competencies). School districts may also use the additional flexibility to bring in educators with different kinds of training and increase access to dual enrollment or career and technical education programs. Finally, districts will be required to be more transparent about how they allocate resources, which should help parents and other citizens demand change where students who have greater needs are receiving less.

## ESSA and the PA School Performance Profile

Under ESSA, states must set goals for increasing the percentage of students who reach state standards in ELA and math and for raising graduation rates. These goals must be set for all students, and for low-income students, students from major racial/ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English Learners. Each state must then report their performance on these goals and other indicators, for all students and for each student group.

Pennsylvania currently communicates performance results through the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile Web site: [www.paschoolperformance.org](http://www.paschoolperformance.org). Next year, the School Performance Profile (SPP) will be replaced by the Future Ready Index. Unlike the SPP, the Future Ready Index will provide an overview of the school's data and tools for making comparisons but no overall score. More information about the index can be found here: [www.education.pa.gov/Pages/Future-Ready-PA.aspx#tab-1](http://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/Future-Ready-PA.aspx#tab-1).

The chart on the following page shows an SPP score for each Pittsburgh public school and charter school, in order of their ranking.

# Pittsburgh School Performance Profiles

This chart shows the PA School Performance Profile score for each school included in this report, ordered from highest to lowest score. See page 22 for more information.

SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE SCORE	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE SCORE
City Charter High School	84.0	Pittsburgh Miller PreK-5	54.7
Pittsburgh Greenfield PreK-8	78.7	Pittsburgh Minadeo PreK-5	54.7
Pittsburgh Colfax K-8	77.6	Pittsburgh Sterrett 6-8	54.6
Pittsburgh Sci-Tech 6-12	75.2	Pittsburgh Manchester PreK-8	54.3
Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-5	75.1	Pittsburgh Obama 6-12	54.3
Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8	74.7	Manchester Academic Charter School	54.3
Environmental Charter School at Frick Park	74.2	Pittsburgh South Brook 6-8	54.2
Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12	73.9	Pittsburgh Phillips K-5	54.0
Pittsburgh Fulton PreK-5	72.4	Pittsburgh Linden K-5	53.8
Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5	69.8	Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-8	53.6
Pittsburgh West Liberty PreK-5	69.2	Pittsburgh Lincoln PreK-5	53.5
Pittsburgh Allegheny K-5	69.0	Pittsburgh Liberty K-5	53.4
Pittsburgh Woolslair PreK-5	68.8	Provident Charter School	53.3
Pittsburgh Concord PreK-5	67.6	Pittsburgh Roosevelt PreK-5	52.5
Pittsburgh Beechwood PreK-5	66.0	Pittsburgh Morrow PreK-8	52.3
Propel Charter School Hazelwood	65.6	Pittsburgh Arlington PreK-8	51.5
Propel Charter School Northside	65.5	Pittsburgh Grandview PreK-5	49.2
Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School	65.1	Pittsburgh Weil PreK-5	48.9
Pittsburgh Westwood PreK-5	64.5	Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5	48.3
Pittsburgh Schiller 6-8	64.4	Pittsburgh Millions 6-12	48.2
Pittsburgh Banksville PreK-5	62.7	Pittsburgh Spring Hill K-5	48.1
Pittsburgh Carrick High School	62.6	Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8	47.4
Pittsburgh Allderdice High School	62.2	Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School	45.9
Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8	61.8	Pittsburgh Perry High School	45.6
Pittsburgh Sunnyside PreK-8	60.5	Pittsburgh Classical 6-8	45.5
Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School	60.4	Pittsburgh Faison K-5	44.1
Pittsburgh Carmalt PreK-8	60.0	Pittsburgh Langley K-8	44.1
Pittsburgh Whittier K-5	58.4	Pittsburgh King PreK-8	38.6
Pittsburgh South Hills 6-8	58.2	Pittsburgh Westinghouse 6-12	37.4
Pittsburgh Brashear High School	55.1		

Magnet school
  Charter school