

Accountability

BACKGROUND

Georgia's College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) was first implemented in 2012 as an alternative to No Child Left Behind's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Georgia's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver provided the opportunity to implement a new accountability system that included multiple measures, provided a more holistic picture of school performance, and addressed several shortcomings of the AYP system.

With ESSA, Georgia seized the opportunity to reflect on six years of CCRPI implementation, and, in consultation with stakeholders across the state, to revise CCRPI to expand upon its successes and address its shortcomings.

WHAT WAS THE MAKE-UP OF THIS WORKGROUP?

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has been committed to a plan development process that is truly stakeholder driven. Each of Georgia's ESSA workgroups were made up of a cross-section of twenty individuals with five members representing different areas of GaDOE and fifteen members representing stakeholders. Each workgroup was chaired by a GaDOE leader and key stakeholder.

- *Chairs:* Director of Accountability, Georgia Department of Education; Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools
- *Representatives* for Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE), special education, student privacy, college readiness, STEM, principals, teachers, superintendents, as well as metro, suburban, and rural school districts *Organizations represented:* Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) and Regional Educational Services Agencies (RESAs)

GaDOE will keep these workgroups intact in order to provide on-going feedback on the implementation of Georgia's Plan.

HOW WAS FEEDBACK FROM GEORGIANS GATHERED?

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) held eight feedback sessions across the state. These were opportunities for parents, students, educators, business and industry, and community members to share their thoughts and concerns. Feedback was compiled, analyzed, and summarized by a third party so participants could engage in candid conversations.

WHAT IS ESSA?

The *Every Student Succeeds Act*, commonly referred to as ESSA, earned bi-partisan approval in 2015.

States were freed from their *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) waiver agreements and given the responsibility to develop state plans to support education.

ESSA significantly scaled back the authority of the Secretary of Education and U.S. Department of Education. Though ESSA gave states additional authority and flexibility over their education system, wholesale flexibility was not granted and statutory requirements vary in specificity from issue-to-issue.

Georgia has sought out maximum flexibility while creating a cohesive and aligned plan that is responsive to stakeholder feedback and supports our vision of *offering a holistic education to each and every child in the state.*

To learn more about Georgia's plan development process visit:

GaDOE.org/ESSA



HOW WAS FEEDBACK FROM GEORGIANS GATHERED? (CONT.)

Feedback sessions were also held with each of the State School Superintendent's advisory councils, representing middle and high school students, parents, teachers, and district superintendents. Business and industry, as well as civil rights organizations, were also engaged.

GaDOE utilized social media, a dedicated ESSA email address for comments, as well as public surveys to gather feedback.

WHAT DID GEORGIANS SAY?

Common themes that emerged around the work of Accountability were:

1. The College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) needs to be simplified and easier to read and should include more comparative information.
2. CCRPI needs to have clear, attainable goals.
3. CCRPI needs to minimize annual changes to ensure consistency.
4. CCRPI scores need to be released earlier.
5. CCRPI should include indicators that promote improved opportunities and outcomes for all students.
6. CCRPI should include multiple measures and emphasize student growth.
7. The focus of CCRPI should be school improvement.
8. There should be more information about school offerings and opportunities for students and on student preparation for life.

The full feedback summary report can be found at: GaDOE.org/ESSAFeedback. This report was compiled through a third party evaluator.

Feedback themes, along with the response to each of those themes, are embedded within Georgia's State ESSA Plan.

Though given some flexibility in ESSA, several requirements related to accountability still exist in state law.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public-friendly reporting
- Adding context for scores
- Literacy and numeracy in the early grades
- Ensuring a balance in readiness between college and career
- School demographics
- *Beyond the Core* opportunities
- Stable indicators
- Shorter timeframe for release
- Flexibility to capture future priorities

OUR PROGRESS

- **Reporting out data with a focus on making it public friendly** and ensuring it can be used as a tool for improving schools
- **Capturing literacy in all grade levels** in elementary and middle school
- **Providing additional context** for school performance by displaying demographics, trends, etc.
- **Developing a *Beyond the Core*** indicator capturing access to arts, world languages, CTAE, and health and P.E. coursework
- **Identifying fewer and more critical indicators** that are flexible enough to capture future state priorities
- **Rewarding schools who make more progress** with student learning
- **Implementing an easier to understand method** for calculating component scores and overall scores
- **Realigning the student attendance indicator** to a nationally-used definition
- **Streamlining the data collection processes** so CCRPI can be released within a shorter timeframe

