EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT
ACCOUNTABILITY PLANS

- States must still develop accountability plans
- New plans will take effect during 2017-2018
ACCOUNTABILITY GOALS

- States may select their own goals, but goals must include:
  - proficiency on tests
  - English language proficiency
  - graduation rates
- Goals must include expectation that subgroup achievement and graduation rate gaps must be closed
ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Must include three academic indicators
  - proficiency on state tests
  - English language proficiency
  - other (e.g., growth on state tests)
- Must include one additional indicator (e.g., student engagement, access to advanced coursework, school climate)
  - 95% exam participation requirement still intact
ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS

HIGH SCHOOLS

- Same indicators as elementary/middle schools, but graduation rates must be included as one of the academic factors
WEIGHTING THE INDICATORS

- States will determine weighting, however academic indicators must count for more
LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS

- States must identify and intervene in bottom 5%
- States must identify and intervene in high schools where graduation rate is less than 67%
- State must identify schools where subgroups are struggling.
SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS

BOTTOM 5% or LESS THAN 67% GRADUATING
- Staff must develop evidence-based plan
- States will monitor turn-around effort
- If no improvement after no more than four years, state must develop plan; state can take over, fire principal or turn school into charter
- Districts can offer school choice, but must offer to students most at risk
SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS

STRUGGLING SUBGROUPS
- Schools must develop formal plan to assist
- District must monitor and step in as needed; no formal timeline for improvement
- States/district must develop "comprehensive improvement plan" when underperformance of group or groups is chronic
- School Improvement Grants for students in poverty becomes part of Title I funding; states can set aside up to 7% of Title I funding (up from cap of 4%)
TESTING

- Requirement for annual 3-8 testing remains intact, as do requirements to report subgroup data and meet 95% participation rate
- Up to seven states can apply for waiver allowing local testing for limited time and for certain purposes (New York is under consideration)
- Districts can use nationally standardized exams such as SAT/ACT
STANDARDS

• States must adopt "challenging" academic standards
• Common Core no more than an option
• U.S. DOE Secretary prohibited from forcing or even encouraging states to select a particular set of standards
TRANSITION FROM NCLB

- Waivers from NCLB are null and void as of 8/1/16, but states must still support lowest-performing schools ("priority schools") and schools with significant achievement gaps ("focus schools") until new plans in place
- ESSA governs federal grants distributed after 10/1/16; NCLB still applies for this year
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

- Accountability for ELLs moves from Title III to Title I, making it more of a uniform priority.
- States CAN include ELL test scores after they have been in the country for a year (same as NCLB):
  - During first year, scores won’t count toward school rating.
  - During second year, scores in both ELA and math must be incorporated using some measure of growth.
  - In third year, scores treated like any others.
SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Only 1% of students overall can be given alternative test (NYSAA)
PROGRAMS

BLOCK GRANT

- New $1.6 billion block grant consolidates dozens of programs (e.g., physical education, Advanced Placement, school counseling, educational technology)
- Districts receiving more than $30K must spend 20% on at least one activity that fosters development of well-rounded students and 10% on activity that promotes health and safety
- Some programs live on as separate line items (e.g., 21st Century Community Learning Centers)
PROGRAMS
NEW OR EXISTING
• Preschool Development Grant jointly administered by SED and Dept. of Health & Human Services
• Investing in Innovation Program
• Parent Engagement
• Arts Education
• Gifted & Talented
• Ready to Learn television
WEIGHTED STUDENT FUNDING

- Pilot program will allow 50 districts to try out a weighted funding program, combining federal/state/local funds to best serve low-income students and students with special needs
TEACHERS

- States will no longer be required to include student outcomes in teacher evaluations
- NCLB's "highly qualified teacher" requirement is out
- Teacher & School Leader Innovation Program will provide grants to districts that try performance pay or other teacher quality improvement measures
- Resources for helping train teachers in literacy and STEM
FUNDING & OTHER ISSUES

- Current Title I funding formula remains intact; some changes to Title II A formula (which funds professional development)
- Maintenance of effort requirements will remain in place, requiring states to maintain spending at a particular level in order to continue receiving funds in subsequent years
?? QUESTIONS ??