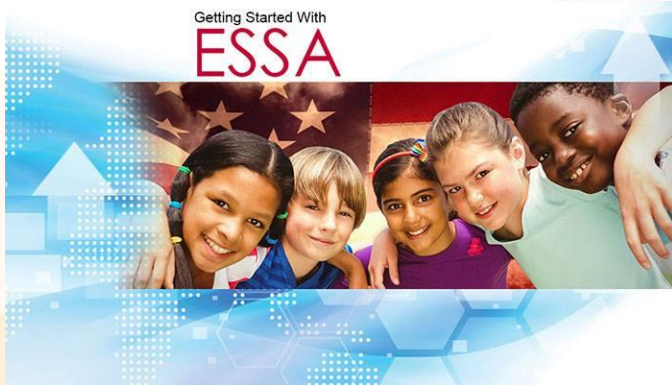


## Every Student Succeeds Act: Game Changer for Health and Physical Education

The U.S. Congress passed the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) in December 2015, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This bipartisan legislation replaces *No Child Left Behind* as the federal education legislation that funds and provides the framework for elementary and secondary education in the United States.



The passage of ESSA was a major victory for the health and physical education profession and the 50 million students in schools across the country. Under *No Child Left Behind*, subjects like health and physical education suffered due to the emphasis on adequate yearly progress and student testing. ESSA aims to shift the focus to a well-rounded education for students, which should include health and physical education.

### Here is how ESSA impacts school health and physical education:

- School health and physical education are identified as part of a student's "well-rounded education". This term replaces the term "core academic subjects" from previous versions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, like *No Child Left Behind*.
- Subjects that are part of a well-rounded education are eligible for federal education funding.
- School districts will be able to access funding for health and physical education from Title I (low-income schools), Title II (professional development), and Title IV through their state department of education.
- Funding previously awarded to school districts through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) from the U.S. Department of Education will no longer exist after FY 2016.
- Title IV, Part A block grants will be distributed to states and school districts using the Title I formula. School districts must spend this money on: supporting a well-rounded education, safe and healthy students programs, and effective use of technology. This funding offers states and school districts the opportunity to improve school health and physical education programs.
- ESSA funding for Titles I, II and IV will begin to flow to states in July 2017. The 2016-2017 school year will be a transition year for states and school districts. States have already begun to develop ESSA implementation plans. Make sure YOU are part of the process!

For more resources and information visit: [www.shapeamerica.org/essa!](http://www.shapeamerica.org/essa!)