ESSA: THE TENNESSEE PLAN

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Goals for this Session

• Review the Policy Priorities for the TN Educational Equity Coalition
• Review student data in Tennessee
• Provide a broad understanding of the Tennessee ESSA Plan
• A Look at the Work Ahead
Priority 1: Excellent Teachers and Leaders for Every Child

Priority 2: Strong Accountability Systems

Priority 3: Appropriate and Equitable Resources and Supports
Equality vs. Equity
What do we mean by Education Equity?

- Education equity means that we want to build an education system where a student's gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, etc. do not determine their potential for reaching their dreams. We advocate for high expectations for all students, and for policies, programs, and practices that provide equitable support and resources so all students have fair and just educational experiences.
Student Demographics in Tennessee

% of Population - 997,893

- All Students
- African-American
- Economically Disadvantaged
- English Learners
- Latino
- Students with Disabilities
- White

Population: 997,893
Demographic Growth in TN

Figure 2. Race and Ethnicity of Tennessee's Children

1980
2014
2060

Minorities
White (Non-Hispanic)

Percentage of Students who Score Proficient or Advanced on Annual Testing

- **3-8 ELA**
- **3-8 Math**
- **English II**
- **Algebra 1**

**White**

**Latino**

**Af-American**

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Af-American</th>
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<td>3-8 ELA</td>
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High School Graduation & Beyond

Graduation Rate

- ACT Benchmarks

Retention upon Graduation

First yr of 2 yr College

First yr of 4 yr College

Latino

African-American

White

Colors used:
- Orange: Latino
- Blue: African-American
- Cyan: White
ELL students are exiting programs successfully and in a timely way

% of students in Gifted/Talented or Special Education Programs are proportional

ACT Scores by Subgroup are monitored

% suspended & expelled students is proportional to students demographics

% of Students in Honors and Advanced Placement Enrollment AND Pass Rate By Subgroup

Equity Data
Self-Examination Required
Why ESSA?

- ESSA is a civil rights law.
- ESSA allows us an opportunity to ensure all students are treated equitably.

- The impact ESSA will have on underserved students will depend on the involvement and advocacy by community members. It is our responsibility to be vigilant as the state plan moves into implementation.
Brief History of ESSA

• Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I

“The purpose of this Title is to provide all children significant opportunity to receive fair, equitable, and high-quality education and to close educational achievement gaps.”

• No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
### Tennessee Succeeds & ESSA Goals

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Tennessee will rank in the <strong>top half of states</strong> on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) by 2019.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>75 percent of Tennessee third graders will be <strong>proficient in reading</strong> by 2025.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The <strong>average ACT composite score</strong> in Tennessee will be a 21 by 2020.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The <strong>majority of high school graduates</strong> from the class of 2020 will earn a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.</td>
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Tennessee Succeeds & ESSA Priorities

- **Early Foundations & Literacy**: Building skills in early grades to contribute to future success
- **High School & Bridge to Postsecondary**: Preparing significantly more students for postsecondary completion
- **All Means All**: Providing individualized support and opportunities for all students with a focus on those who are furthest behind
- **Educator Support**: Supporting the preparation and development of an exceptional educator workforce
- **District Empowerment**: Providing districts with the tools and autonomy they need to make the best decisions for students

Tennessee ESSA Timeline

- **Kick-off**: May 2016
- **Stakeholder Input**: June–Sept. 2016
- **Writing the Plan**: Sept.–Nov. 2016
- **Approving the Plan**: Feb.–March 2017

**Stakeholders included** directors of schools, principals, educators, parents and students, legislators, governor’s office, state board of education, school board members, CORE offices, community organizations, and advocacy groups.

Components of the TN ESSA State Plan (Informed by Tennessee Succeeds)

- Standards
- Assessment
- Accountability
- Educator Support
- All Means All
- District Empowerment
- Early Foundations & Literacy
- High School & Bridge to Postsecondary
Coalition Involvement

- **First meeting with TDOE**: MAY 2016
- **Coalition members selected for state ESSA working groups**: JUNE 2016
- **Steering Committee meets with Secretary of Education John King**: JULY 2016
- **Launch of ESSA Bootcamp Series**: DEC. 2016
- **Coalition submits comments to USED: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking**: MAY 2017
- **Coalition submits letters to Senator Lamar Alexander and Commissioner Candice McQueen**: Jun 2016
- **Op-ed in response to draft version state plan**: MAY 2017
What did we celebrate in the draft?

- Subgroups are explicitly included in school grades
- Differentiated levels of support for schools that are identified as low-performing
- The inclusion of Opportunity to Learn and Ready Graduate as the additional indicators of school quality and student success
What did we advocate for?

• Lowering the N-size from 30 to 20 or less
• Separating the groups of students instead of having a combined Black, Hispanic, Native American super group
• Removing the use of “Acculturation” completely in reference to English Learners and replacing “underperforming” to “underserved”
• Ensuring that schools that don’t meet the 95% assessment participation rate face consequences
Key Changes in Final Version

• “Opportunity to Learn” renamed “Chronically Out of School” and reduced from 20% to 10% for K-8 schools
• The “Ready Graduate” indicator now includes a check for military readiness
• Focus schools that are not adequately serving subgroups will receive a “minus” on their letter grade. “A” schools that receive a “minus” are not eligible to Reward School designation
• TDOE will establish teacher and principal residency programs for high-need urban districts across the state
What are our Coalition “Wins”?

- English Language Proficiency Assessment counts for a full 10% of a school’s final grade
- Subgroups count for 40% of a school’s final grade
- Proficiency and growth and weighed relatively evenly, with proficiency weighing 5% more in high school and 10% more in K-8
- The Chronically Out of School indicator includes out-of-school suspensions
- Schools that do not meet the 95% assessment participation rate will receive a grade “F” on the achievement indicator
Where are we now?

• Tennessee submitted the final ESSA State Plan on April 3rd.

• ESSA was codified by TN General Assembly and became state law July 1, 2017.

• On August 31, 2017 the U.S. Department of Education approved Tennessee’s ESSA plan. One key change in the plan:
  For the identification of Focus schools, ethnic groups will be desegregated into the six federally recognized groups as long as they meet the n-size of 30 individually. A combined BHN will still be used.
What are we still watching?

- What are the cut scores for determining grades for each indicator?
- How are “B” and “C” schools defined?
- What systems are in place to help schools increase their overall school grade if they are not Focus or Priority Schools?
- How will Focus schools get targeted support for the subgroups they are not serving well?
- How do we ensure true family and community engagement for school improvement plans?

December 2018 the first round of school grades will be released.
Questions?