



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Instead of a universal accountability system for all states, ESSA gave states the flexibility to develop accountability systems that best measure student success in their respective states. Below are some key differences between NCLB and ESSA.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)	Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
One-size fits all plan developed by U.S. Department of Education for all states	Individualized plans developed by each state
Mandated labels for the lowest performing schools (Priority and Focus)	No labels for lowest performing schools
School performance primarily measured by math and English language arts test scores	School performance measured by test scores, achievement, growth, English learner progress, graduation rate, and school quality and student success
State provided support directly to schools	State provides support to districts, which provide support to schools
Stakeholder engagement not required	Requires meaningful stakeholder engagement
4-year graduation rate used to determine school success	4-year graduation rate AND 5-year graduation rate used to determine school success
Focused on achieving proficiency	Focuses on achievement and growth for all students