

# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) & Rhode Island's Committee of Practitioners

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## The Every Student Succeeds Act

Rhode Island is in the process of making a transition to the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The new law provides states with a great deal of flexibility in a number of key areas, including academic standards, accountability, support for school improvement, student and educator support, and use of federal education funds. The law gives an opportunity for us to further develop our work and our resourcing plan for Rhode Island's Strategic Plan for PK-12 Education, completed in 2015. The U.S. Department of Education has asked all states to submit a plan for transition to ESSA, and our goal at the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) is to complete our plan and submit it by July 2017.

## We need every voice

Engagement and public input is essential to our ESSA plan. To ensure that we hear from everyone, we are convening a Committee of Practitioners to give the RIDE team input on high-level questions concerning ESSA, to serve as liaisons to the community at large regarding our planning process, and to weigh in on multiple drafts of the Rhode Island State ESSA Plan.

## What members will do

Members of the Committee of Practitioners will serve as representatives of their networks and stakeholder groups throughout Rhode Island. This service will entail participation in monthly two-hour meetings, preparation through review of materials and consultation with colleagues, feedback on proposed sections or drafts of the Rhode Island State ESSA Plan, and provision of advice to the RIDE team to aid in development of a final plan. Members will also have the opportunity, if desired, to consult with critical stakeholder groups and to participate in community meetings regarding transition to ESSA.

## Committee meetings

Meetings will take place on Wednesdays, from 4 to 6 p.m. Meetings through December, 2016 will take place at the United Way of Rhode Island, 50 Valley St, Providence, RI. The scheduled dates are as follows: July 20, 2016; August 24, 2016; September 21, 2016; October 19, 2016; November 30, 2016; December 14, 2016; January 25, 2017; February 22, 2017; March 22, 2017; April 19, 2017; May 17, 2017; and June 14, 2017.

## Where to learn more

RIDE has created a web site at [www.ride.ri.gov/ESSA](http://www.ride.ri.gov/ESSA) where we will post ESSA resources and Committee information.