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*The Impact of  
the Every Student Succeeds Act  
on High Schools*

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# ESSA and Low Graduation Rate High Schools

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Nationwide, there are 1,235 high schools, enrolling more than 1.1 million students, that do not graduate one-third or more of their students.

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires states to identify high schools with graduation rates at or below 67 percent for comprehensive, locally-determined, evidenced-based intervention.

- Schools are identified at least once every 3 years
- Schools have up to 4 years to meet state-set criteria to exit the comprehensive support and improvement status



# ESSA and High Schools

The Every Student Succeeds Act includes a number of other important provisions to support high schools:

- Codifies an accurate calculation of the graduation rate;
- Requires states to set long-term goals for the 4-year high school graduation rate for all students and student subgroups; and
- Requires state plans to describe how the state will work with districts to provide for the effective transition of students from middle school to high school and high school to postsecondary education.



# ESSA and Funding for High Schools

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High schools receive 10 percent of Title I funding, yet they enroll nearly one-quarter of students from low-income families.

The Every Student Succeeds Act allows districts to target Title I funds to high schools:

- Districts are allowed to lower the priority threshold to receive Title I funds from 75 percent to 50 percent for high schools
- Districts are allowed to use the “feeder pattern” to determine poverty in high schools



# ESSA and High Schools

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The Every Student Succeeds Act includes a number of other funding streams to support high schools:

- Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program;
- 3 percent of Title I funds may be used for “direct student services”; and
- Support for dual or concurrent enrollment and early college high schools in Titles I, II, and III.

