

K-12 Education: Real-World Relevance

How Chambers Can Promote Career Readiness in New State Accountability Plans



The new federal K-12 education law provides states with the opportunity to explore innovative and collaborative strategies to improve education attainment, equity and accountability. The business community can also leverage this opportunity to focus on career readiness to ensure that education policy is aligned with regional workforce needs.

States are working to complete their Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) plans by spring 2017. Chambers can get involved to help improve education outcomes and empower all students to succeed in college, career and life.

October 2016 through
December 2016

January 2017 through
September 2017

- U.S. Department of Education reviews comments to draft ESSA regulations. Final regulations will be issued by the end of the year.
- States draft and seek feedback on ESSA plans.
- States consider necessary policy changes to align with ESSA and final regulations.
- State plans due to U.S. Department of Education in spring 2017.
- State legislatures make necessary state law changes to comply with final ESSA requirements.
- State plans are approved.
- New systems implemented for 2017-18 school year.

What Chambers Can Do

If your chamber hasn't already been active in the development of your state's ESSA plan, connect with your state board of education to request a meeting to discuss ESSA implementation.

- Offer to host stakeholder meetings for district leadership with regional business leaders.
- Ask if your state plan includes a career readiness indicator in its accountability system. If yes, how is it being measured? How can the business community provide validation and assistance?
- Discuss potential collaboration to increase work-based learning opportunities, student internships, teacher externships, guest speakers, mentorship and job shadowing opportunities.
- Ask what additional assistance the business community can provide to support ESSA implementation.

Learn more online at www.ACCE.org/EAD