

YOUR VOICE MATTERS: CONVERSATION STARTERS

myschoolmyvoice.nea.org



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These conversation starters contain bulleted information to help educators, like you, communicate with colleagues and others about how ESSA will impact classrooms and students.

You can customize these cards and share your story when speaking in a public forum such as a school board meeting, PTA meeting, local union meeting, etc.

1. Educator Voice
2. Stakeholder Engagement
3. School Improvement
4. School Climate
5. Equity
6. Professional Learning
7. Teacher Evaluation
8. Well-Rounded Education

Use these cards to share information through social media to engage educators and other stakeholders to ensure that each and every student has an opportunity for success.



Make Your Commitment Today!

Name _____

Personal E-mail _____

Contact Phone (_____) _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

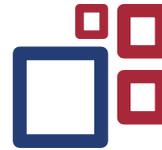
Describe your work role (teacher, education support professional, aspiring educator, higher education faculty/staff, librarian/media specialist, retiree, etc.):

What actions will you commit to once you get back home?

- Share information with a colleague about the value and use of educator voice in our school and local
- Reach out to my local president to find out what our local is doing to ensure that our voices are being heard locally
- Share the Opportunity Checklist with other educators in my school
- Share the Opportunity Checklist with members of our school community (parents, families, community leaders, etc.)
- Work with a team of educators in our school to complete the Opportunity Audit
- Work with my local president to host a town hall for other stakeholders focused on growing opportunities for students in our public schools
- Utilize the Advocating for Great Public Schools guide to plan a campaign addressing the issues unique to my school



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Your Voice Matters!

Thank you for making a commitment to yourself and your students!

To remember what that commitment was, note the items you've committed to take action on here:

- Share information with a colleague about the value and use of educator voice in our school and local
- Reach out to my local president to find out what our local is doing to ensure that our voices are being heard locally
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Thank you for your commitment to **USING YOUR VOICE!**



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3 Steps for Fulfilling My Commitment

Your voice is key to identifying strengths and needs in your school that can ensure the success of each and every student.

- Encourage colleagues to complete the Opportunity Checklist, and use it to start a conversation about the specific strengths and challenges in your school.
- Dig deeper using the Opportunity Audit, a research-based tool which will help you identify what's needed in your school to encourage student curiosity, discovery, and inspire learning.
- Take action using *Advocating for Great Public Schools*, NEA's handbook of guidance to support educators in taking action toward ensuring a great public school for every student.

Visit myschoolmyvoice.nea.org for these resources and more!



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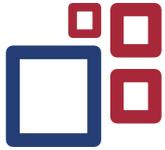


BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
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1201 16TH STREET NW
SUITE 617
WASHINGTON DC 20077-9590





On Matters of Educator Voice

ESSA 101, Paraeducator Voice, and Claiming Our Voice

My input as an educator will help shape what success looks like for students under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
I am here as an education professional, someone who works with students every day.
I know their names. I know what they need to be successful. This is MY school and MY voice matters.

- Federal law requires input from all educators, including classroom teachers, paraeducators and other education support professionals, specialized instructional support personnel, higher education faculty and staff, and administrators.
- All educators have the power and expertise to determine what success looks like for each and every student..
- Educators must seize this opportunity and claim their seat at the table to speak up on behalf of students.
- Together, educators like me will partner with a broad base of stakeholders to lead ESSA implementation.

In my school/district this is important because...

...this is MY school and MY voice matters.

Consider sharing this information with other educators (including aspiring educators and retirees), students, parents, your administration and other community members.

Do you have an opportunity to share at a staff, local union, PTA or school board meeting?

As trusted professionals, all educators* are uniquely positioned to drive discussions and decisions that lead to student success.

***Teachers, Paraeducators, Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP), Education Support Professionals (ESP), Higher Education Professionals**

Learn more, visit: nea.org/needtoknow; nea.org/PEV; nea.org/CV





ESSA provides an **opportunity** to ensure **student success**. It will only be realized if **educators speak up**.



Join the conversation **#myschoolmyvoice #ESSA**



It took just 3 minutes to speak up for my students. Join me to achieve equitable education for all. Fill out the Opportunity Checklist at myschoolmyvoice.nea.org #ESSA #myschoolmyvoice



I am taking every opportunity I can to share what my students need and what matters most. Learn what you can do at myschoolmyvoice.nea.org



Assessing what our school and students need is much easier with the ESSA Opportunity Dashboard Indicator and NEA's Opportunity Audit. nea.org/oppdashboard; nea.org/accountability

How to use this resource:

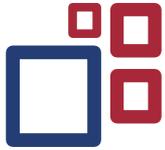
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Educator Voice in Matters of Stakeholder Engagement Families & Communities and Claiming Our Voice

My input as an educator will help shape what success looks like for students under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

I am here as an education professional, someone who works with students every day. I know their names.

I know what they need to be successful. This is MY school and MY voice matters.

- As educators we want to and will work with parent organizations, civil right organizations, disability rights groups, and other community leaders to make sure policies that affect our students are made by people who know them by name.
- ESSA provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to take ownership of their schools and maximize opportunities for student success.
- Engagement by educators, parents and other stakeholders at the local level provides an insight into the specific needs of the local student population. This allows us to ensure that funding will go to the areas of most need.
- Together, educators like me will be working to strengthen partnerships and build a broad base of support among partners who share our commitment to student success. I am here to claim my seat at the table. This is my school and my voice matters.

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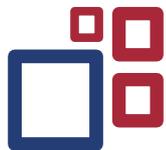
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Educator Voice in Matters of School Improvement

State-Designed Accountability Systems

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- ESSA ends the one-size-fits-all approach to school improvement. Decision making for school improvement is returned to the people who know schools and students best – educators, families and community groups.
- School improvement plans will address the most pressing concerns within a school based on local needs assessments and resource equity audits.
- Educators can lead discussions with parent organizations, civil rights organizations, disability rights groups, and other community leaders to make sure policies that affect our students are made by those who are best equipped to ensure student success.

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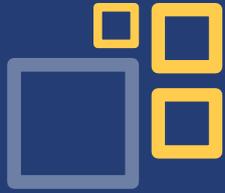
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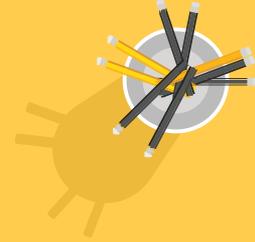
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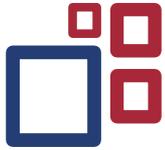
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Educator Voice in Matters of School Climate

Student + School Safety / Bullying Prevention and School Discipline

My input as an educator will help shape what success looks like for students under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

I am here as an education professional, someone who works with students every day.

I know their names. I know what they need to be successful. This is MY school and MY voice matters.

- ESSA provides funding to improve student learning and student safety, based on plans developed and implemented in partnership with education professionals like me.
- Educators have the power to raise awareness about what constitutes bullying and empower students to report it.
- ESSA requires state and local education agencies utilize the guidance of educators to examine the overuse of disciplinary practices that remove students from the classroom and consider alternatives such as restorative practices to end the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Together, educators like me can lead discussions to identify appropriate policies to reduce exclusionary discipline practices, such as school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports.
- Educators can work to expand access to coordinated resources for school-based counseling and mental health programs, so all students get the support they need.

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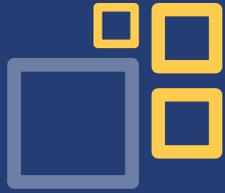
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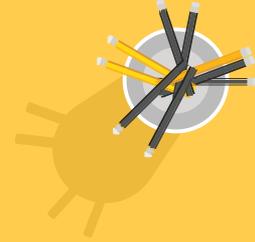
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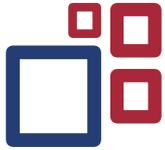
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Educator Voice in Matters of Equity

Opportunity Indicators

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I know what they need to be successful. This is MY school and MY voice matters.

- All students, regardless of their ZIP code, deserve the support, tools, resources, and time to learn. Educators know what promotes students success, their involvement is critical in assessing available resources and closing opportunity gaps.
- Federal law provide districts and schools the opportunity to measure student success and school performance holistically by going beyond student assessments to address resource inequities. Our students have different needs and educators are best equipped to identify those needs.
- Educators like me will be working to strengthen and deepen partnerships with stakeholders who share our commitment to student success. Together, we can ensure that public schools are well-resourced and that students have the support and opportunity to thrive.

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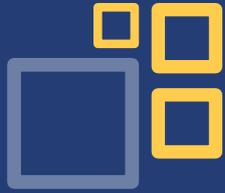
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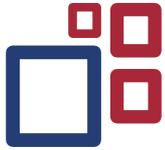
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Educator Voice in Matters of Professional Learning

Winning Professional Development Through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

My input as an educator will help shape what success looks like for students under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

I am here as an education professional, someone who works with students every day. I know their names.

I know what they need to be successful. This is MY school and MY voice matters.

- ESSA provides an opportunity for educators to make their voices heard through involvement, development, and implementation of professional learning plans at the local education agency level – this is good for educators and students.
- Educators have the power to ensure that all education professionals who enter our schools are ready to reach, teach, and inspire their students.
- Educators must be involved in the development of school improvement plans and schoolwide program plans to ensure professional learning opportunities are included and tailored to local needs.

In my school/district this is important because...

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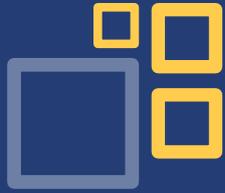
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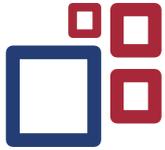
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Educator Voice in Matters of Teacher Evaluation Quality Professional Growth and Evaluation Systems

My input as an educator will help shape what success looks like for students under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
I am here as an education professional, someone who works with students every day. I know their names.
I know what they need to be successful. This is MY school and MY voice matters.

- Educators deserve high quality evaluation systems that provide the tools needed to continuously tailor instruction, enhance practice, and advance student learning.
- Evaluation systems must be developed and implemented with educators and include: indicators of educator practice, indicators of educator contribution and growth, and indicators of contribution to student learning, growth, and development.
- All students, regardless of ZIP code, deserve the support, tools, resources, and time to learn. Educator voice matters in developing and implementing high quality teacher evaluation systems.

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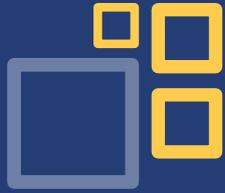
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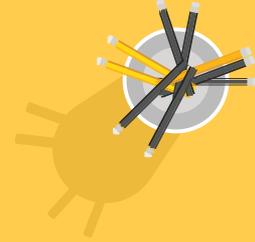
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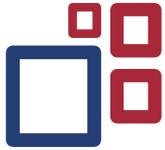
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Educator Voice in Matters of Well-Rounded Education

More Time to Learn

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- Students deserve access to a well-rounded education, including critical thinking and problem-solving skills in all subject areas. A reduction in the number of high stakes, standardized tests can help educators focus on a balanced system of assessment that promotes student learning and success.
- We need to capitalize on the opportunities within ESSA to reduce the time spent testing. This can be accomplished by auditing our assessments and eliminating unnecessary, duplicative and low quality assessments.
- Educators must make sure that all students have multiple pathways to success. The use of nationally recognized tests (like ACT, SAT, or Advanced Placement tests) can decrease testing time in high school, and access to high quality career technical education programs can prepare students for success in college and/or careers.
- All students, regardless of their ZIP code, deserve the support, tools, resources, and time to learn.
- Educators like me will be working to strengthen partnerships and build a broad base of support among partners who share our commitment to student success and take our seat at the table as plans for accountability (quality assessment) systems are developed and implemented.

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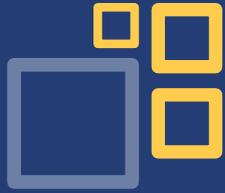
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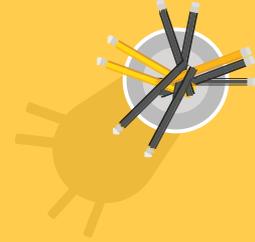
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Assessing what our school and students need is much easier with the ESSA Opportunity Dashboard Indicator and NEA's Opportunity Audit. nea.org/oppdashboard; nea.org/accountability

How to use this resource:

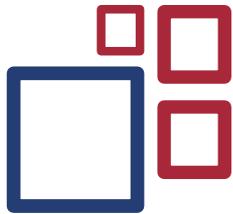
- Share this information with other educators (including aspiring educators and retirees), students, parents, your administration and other community members.
- Request an opportunity to share with your colleagues, local union leaders, PTA, school board, civil and faith-based organizations, etc.
- Personalize your message by telling your story.

Visit myschoolmyvoice.nea.org to learn more.



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Get Informed. Be Engaged. Tell Your Story.

We'd love to know how things are going. What successes and/or challenges have you had thus far with implementing ESSA in your area?

NAME _____

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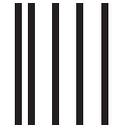
PERSONAL E-MAIL _____

STATE _____

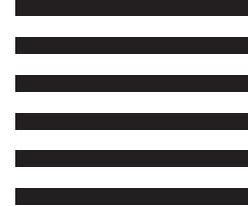
You can also email us at ESSAinfo@nea.org to let us know what you plan to do or which additional resources you need.



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