

Getting Started With

# ESSA

A GUIDE FOR HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATORS



 SHAPE America

e-guide

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# Every Student Succeeds Act Introduction

SHAPE America's mission is to advance professional practice and promote research related to health and physical education, physical activity, dance, and sport. Advocacy is an essential element in the fulfillment of this mission. By speaking out for the school health and physical education profession, SHAPE America strives to make an impact on the national policy landscape.

For more than seven years, SHAPE America has played an integral role in advocating for the inclusion of health education and physical education in federal education law. By championing the *PHYSICAL Act* legislation for the past three sessions of Congress, SHAPE America and key congressional supporters were able to lay the groundwork for integrating school health and physical education into ESSA.

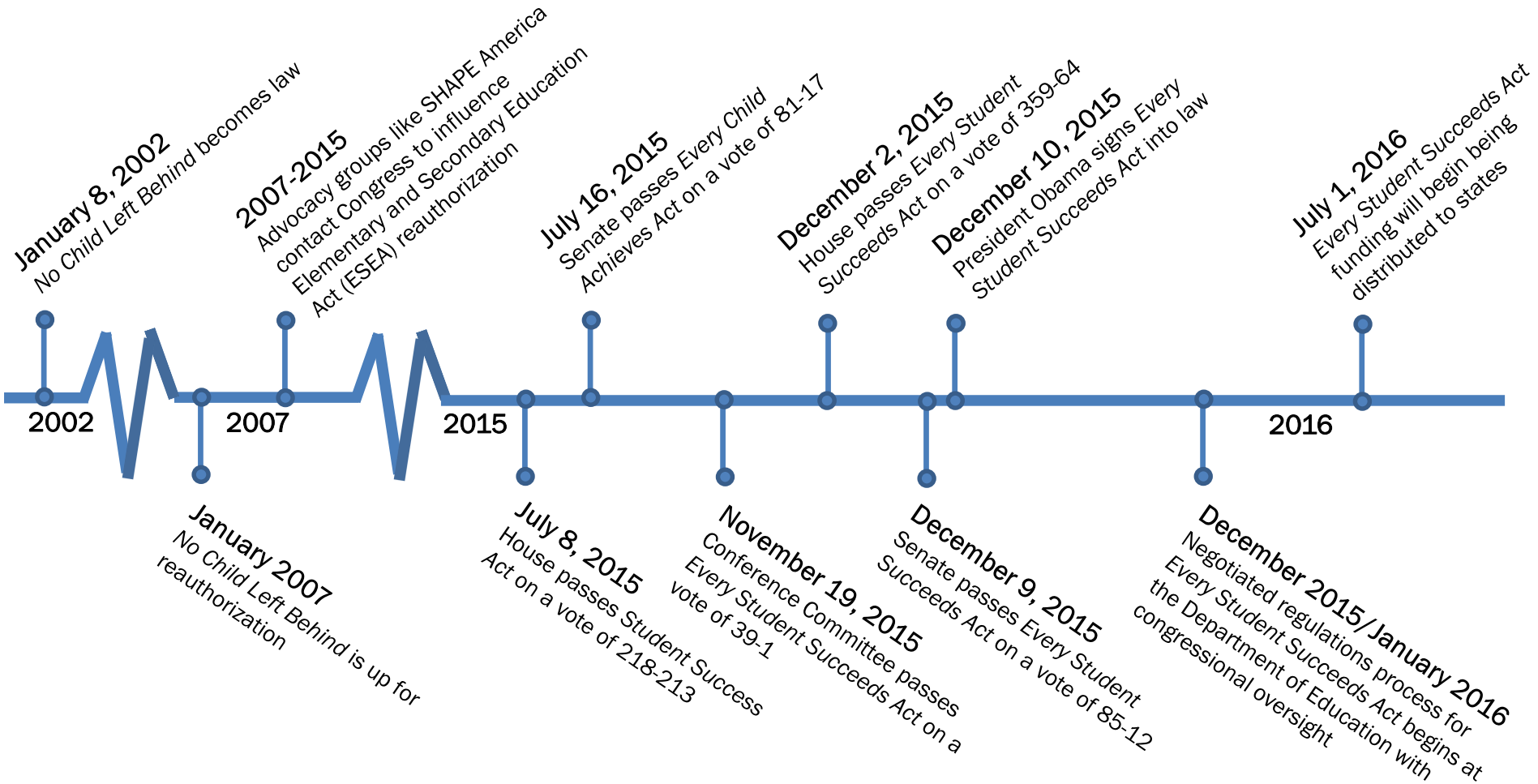
Through SPEAK Out! Day meetings, organizational sign-on letters, communication with congressional champions and a constant flow of emails and calls from our members and supporters, SHAPE America led efforts to ensure that school health and physical education were included as part of a student's "well-rounded education" within the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).

Receiving this designation in ESSA allows school health and physical education significant access to funding, something that was limited under *No Child Left Behind*.

As details about ESSA continue to unfold and the plan for implementation is put into place over the next year, SHAPE America will be your source for information about the legislation as it relates to the health and physical education profession.



# Every Student Succeeds Act Timeline



# Every Student Succeeds Act Background Information



The U.S. Congress passed the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) in December 2015, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. [President Obama](#) signed the bill into law on December 10.

This bipartisan legislation replaces [No Child Left Behind](#) as the federal education legislation that funds and provides the framework for elementary and secondary education in the United States. ESSA is the seventh reauthorization of ESEA.

Health education and physical education were not prominently included in *No Child Left Behind* and as a result, programs were marginalized, causing major funding cuts nationwide.

School health and physical education have been included in ESSA, putting them on a level playing field with other academic subjects. Therefore, states and school districts will have access to significant funding for health education and physical education programs.



# Every Student Succeeds Act

## Basics of ESSA

### Government Authority

When lawmakers were crafting [ESSA](#), the goal was to strike the right balance between the respective roles of federal, state and local governments in formulating education policy. Through ESSA, states and local governments have more autonomy to set their own education priorities to serve the needs of children in their own states. ESSA offers states and localities more flexibility and control than *No Child Left Behind*.

### Standards and Assessments

States must still adopt challenging standards for academic subjects. The Secretary of Education is expressly prohibited from forcing or even encouraging states to pick a particular set of standards (including Common Core State Standards).

ESSA will still require student testing for reading/language arts, math and science in grades 3-8 and once in high school. The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) mandate that was in place under *No Child Left Behind* has been eliminated. States will be required to set up their own systems for measuring student progress and will be able to set their own goals. ESSA provides funding for states to audit, improve, and streamline assessment systems, and eliminate redundant and inefficient assessments.

### Teacher Requirements

Under *No Child Left Behind*, teachers of core academic subjects (as defined and listed in *No Child Left Behind*) were required to be “highly qualified” teachers. In ESSA, this requirement has been eliminated. States have the authority to set their own teacher requirements and licensure standards.



# Every Student Succeeds Act

## Basics of ESSA

### Teacher and Principal Evaluation

States and school districts must develop and implement teacher and principal evaluation systems that are based in part on evidence of student achievement.

### Core Subjects vs. Well-Rounded Education

The term “core academic subjects” used in *No Child Left Behind* has been replaced in ESSA with the term “well-rounded education.” Similar to core academic subjects, subjects included in the definition of a well-rounded education are eligible uses of Title I and Title II funds by states and school districts. While school health and physical education were not included in *No Child Left Behind* – which led to restricted access to program funding – they are included in the ESSA definition of well-rounded education.

### Consolidation of Programs

*No Child Left Behind* included more than 50 grant programs that were administered by the Department of Education directly to community-based organizations and school districts, many of which have not been funded through the congressional appropriations process in a number of years. All of these programs have been consolidated in ESSA into a large block grant of funds that will be distributed to states. States will then distribute funds to school districts based on the response to a formalized needs assessment completed by each school district.



# Every Student Succeeds Act

## School Health & Physical Education in ESSA

- School health and physical education are identified as part of a student’s “well-rounded” education. The term “well-rounded education” replaces the term “core subjects” used in previous authorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Subjects included in a well-rounded education are allowable uses of [Title I](#) and [Title II](#) funds by states and school districts.
- Being part of the definition of a well-rounded education puts school health and physical education on a level playing field with other academic subjects.
- School health, physical education and physical activity programs will have access to significant funding under Title IV of ESSA. Block grants will be distributed to states under the Safe and Healthy Students program within Title IV. School districts will apply to their state department of education for funding for a wide range of safety, health and school-climate programs, to include health education and physical education.
- Funding previously allocated to school districts through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) from the Department of Education will no longer exist. The funding available in the block grants through Title IV will replace the PEP grant funding.
- School districts will be able to access funding from Title I, Title II and Title IV through their state department of education. The process for accessing these funds is still being developed by the Department of Education with oversight from Congress.





# Every Student Succeeds Act Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How do I access funding for my school health and physical education program?**

**A:** Funding for Titles I, II and IV will begin to flow to states on July 1, 2016. Prior to the 2016-2017 school year, school districts will have to update their district-wide plans on how they would allocate funds from ESSA. Title IV will require that school districts complete an assessment to evaluate their needs under the Safe and Healthy Students program. The specific process for accessing these funds will likely be different in each state or school district. Advocates should consider serving on the committee in their school district that develops these school district funding plans to ensure school health and physical education are prominently addressed. *Funding for school health and physical education programs is not guaranteed without strong state and local support from all those within the health and physical education profession!*

**Q: How much money is allocated to each Title for FY 2017?**

**A:** **Title I** provides funding for low-income schools and students. It is the most flexible and largest pot of money in ESSA, funded at \$15 billion for FY 2017. **Title II** provides funding for professional development for principals, teachers and school employees. Title II is funded at \$469 million for FY 2017. States will receive block grants under **Title IV Part A**, Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants, to distribute to school districts to support well-rounded educational opportunities, safe and healthy students, and effective use of technology. Title IV Part A is funded at \$1.65 billion for FY 2017, of which 20 percent must go toward well-rounded subject areas and 20 percent must fund safe and healthy students programs (to include health and physical education programs).



# Every Student Succeeds Act Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: In addition to funding, are there other provisions in ESSA that apply to school health and physical education?**

**A:** States and school districts are required to complete and submit report cards to the Department of Education that track a number of different indicators. These indicators now include student engagement and school culture/climate, which could include data related to health and physical education programs. In addition, ESSA strongly discourages schools from pulling students out of any class in order to receive remedial instruction for another subject. This guidance would apply to students being removed from physical education classes in order to receive instruction for another subject.

**Q: Does the inclusion of school health and physical education in ESSA mean that schools must provide health education and physical education instruction to students?**

**A:** The inclusion of school health and physical education as part of a well-rounded education is not a mandate. States and school districts will still have to set their own mandates for instruction time and graduation requirements at the state and local level. Designation as part of a well-rounded education makes health and physical education allowable uses of federal education dollars and it shows that the federal government is strongly encouraging states to prioritize and include these subjects as part of a student's overall curriculum.



# Every Student Succeeds Act Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: What is the process for implementing ESSA?**

**A:** Funding for ESSA will begin to be distributed to states in July 2016. States will have until the 2017-2018 school year to fully comply with all required regulations under ESSA. The Department of Education will undergo a negotiated regulations process during the first part of 2016 to establish guidelines for distribution of funds to states as well as reporting and assessment requirements for states. Congress has oversight of this process and will be conducting hearings in 2016 to ensure the Department of Education is implementing the law as Congress intended.

## **Q: Is SHAPE America still advocating for the PHYSICAL Act?**

**A:** Now that ESSA has passed and the bill includes school health and physical education, SHAPE America is no longer advocating for the PHYSICAL Act. The goal of the PHYSICAL Act was to have health and physical education designated as core subjects in federal education law. Since the term “core subjects” was replaced in ESSA with the term “well-rounded education,” and school health and physical education have been included in the definition of well-rounded education, this goal has been achieved.

## **Q: What happened to the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP)?**

**A:** Funding previously granted directly to school districts through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) from the Department of Education will no longer exist. The funding available in the block grants distributed to states through Title IV will replace PEP grant funding. It is SHAPE America’s belief that these expanded opportunities will enable a greater number of school districts and schools to provide more innovative health and physical education programs for students. Current PEP grantees will receive their final year of funding in FY 2016.



# Every Student Succeeds Act

## Glossary of Terms

**Adequate yearly progress (AYP)** – Under *No Child Left Behind*, states were required to show yearly improvement in all Title I schools and districts in order to enable low-achieving children to meet high performance levels expected of all children. This requirement was eliminated in ESSA. Under ESSA, states will craft their own assessment and accountability plans and goals.

**Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP)** – PEP was a program authorized under *No Child Left Behind* to support innovative physical education programs. These competitive grants were administered through the Department of Education directly to community-based organizations and local school districts. Funding for PEP grants has been consolidated into Title IV block grants that will be distributed to states under ESSA.

**Conference Committee** – A committee of the U.S. Congress appointed by the House of Representatives and Senate to resolve disagreements on a particular bill. A conference committee is usually composed of senior members of the standing committees of each chamber that originally considered the legislation.

Available March 2016

2016

## Shape of the Nation Report

All-New Data!

Current information on the status of physical education policies in all 50 states and Washington, DC.

Download the entire report starting in March at:  
[www.shapeamerica.org/shapeofthenation](http://www.shapeamerica.org/shapeofthenation)



# Every Student Succeeds Act

## Glossary of Terms

**Core academic subjects** – In *No Child Left Behind*, core academic subjects were listed as English, reading/language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. Teachers of these subjects were required to be highly qualified. All core subjects were also eligible uses of Title I and Title II funding by states and school districts.

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act** – The federal education law that funds and provides the framework for elementary and secondary education in the United States. Legislation was first passed in 1965.

**Highly qualified teachers** – Under *No Child Left Behind*, all teachers of core academic subjects were required to be highly qualified teachers. Teachers were required to hold a bachelor’s degree, have state certification or licensure, and prove they knew each subject they taught.

**Local Education Agency (LEA)** – Another word for school district – an entity that operates local public elementary and secondary schools in the United States.

**Title I** – The section of federal education law that provides financial assistance to school districts and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. The largest pot of funding within ESSA.

**Title II** – The section of federal education law that provides financial assistance to school districts and schools for professional development for principals, teachers, and school employees.



# Every Student Succeeds Act Glossary of Terms

**Title IV** – Within ESSA, Title IV provides block grants to states to fund student supports and academic enhancements (which includes health and physical education), 21<sup>st</sup>-century community learning centers, charter schools, magnet schools, innovation, research, and school safety.

**Well-rounded education** – This term replaces the term “core academic subjects” in ESSA. Subjects identified as part of a well-rounded education include: English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, and physical education. These subjects are eligible uses of Title I, Title II and Title IV funds.

**2016 SPEAK Out! Day**  
March 1-2, 2016 • Washington, DC

Attend SHAPE America’s annual advocacy day to support health and physical education programs across the country

Register today!

**SPEAK Out! FOR Health & PE**

www.shapeamerica.org/speakout

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**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD on Capitol Hill!**



# Every Student Succeeds Act

## Next Steps


- Educate yourself on the [facts of ESSA!](#)
- Begin formulating your needs and plan for your health and physical education programs. School districts will have to complete new plans for the allocation of federal funds from ESSA. Volunteer to serve on these committees or communicate to the committee members the importance of health and physical education being included in the plans.
- Begin having conversations with your principal, superintendent and state department of education representatives about health and physical education. Raise their awareness that ESSA funding can now be used for these subjects.
- Continue to access the [SHAPE America website](#) for breaking news as Congress and the Department of Education finalize more details about the implementation of ESSA.
- Access special SHAPE America member-only templates and resources to support your school district's transition to ESSA.
- Attend SHAPE America's [SPEAK Out! Day](#) to learn more about ESSA and meet with your members of Congress to ensure ESSA is implemented effectively in your state.
- Health and physical education programs will be competing for Title I, Title II and Title IV funding with many other subjects in every state and school district. *All health and physical educators must be strong advocates for the need to allocate funding to health and physical education programs in order to support the lifelong healthy habits of all students!*



# Every Student Succeeds Act Additional Resources

To help you become more familiar with this landmark legislation, SHAPE America has put together the following new [resources](#):

- *Every Student Succeeds Act 101* podcast
- *Getting Started With ESSA* webinar
- *What's Next With ESSA* blog post



The graphic features a blue background with a white silhouette of the U.S. Capitol dome on the left. The text 'SHAPE America Advocacy' is written in white serif font at the top. Below it, 'Legislative Action Center' is written in white sans-serif font. A red circular button with white text says 'TAKE ACTION NOW' with a white arrow pointing right. The background has a red and white striped pattern on the right side.

Want to advocate for school health and physical education? The SHAPE America Legislative Action Center is your go-to resource!

The Legislative Action Center features:

- Webinars and resources for advocates at the national, state and local level;
- Updates and news on federal legislation;
- Legislation talking points, policy guidance and resources for developing and evaluating policy;
- Directory of elected officials, by state;
- And more!

The SHAPE America Legislative Action Center is your one-stop spot for all things advocacy!



[shapeamerica.org/advocacy](http://shapeamerica.org/advocacy)



# Every Student Succeeds Act National Convention & Expo

The [2016 SHAPE America National Convention & Expo](#) is taking place this year from April 5-9 in Minneapolis. There will be a dedicated general session on Friday, April 8 about ESSA that you will not want to miss.

Also, check out these great advocacy sessions:

- **Take Action in Your State: Success Stories From Advocacy Champions** — SHAPE America members will share examples of successful advocacy campaigns, activities, and lessons learned, and give you access to free resources to support your program and students. Attend to ensure your voice will be heard on the national, state and local level!
- **Advocate with SHAPE America!** — SHAPE America offers training on new advocacy resources for the national, state, and local levels — including the new *2016 Shape of the Nation Report*. Attend to gain access to critical resources and learn how to increase your advocacy impact. We are *all* advocates!



[Register for the national convention](#) today!



[shapeamerica.org/advocacy](http://shapeamerica.org/advocacy)



# Every Student Succeeds Act About SHAPE America

**SHAPE America** – Society of Health and Physical Educators is committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to lead healthy, physically active lives. As the nation’s largest membership organization of health and physical education professionals, SHAPE America works with its 50 state affiliates and is a founding partner of national initiatives including the [Presidential Youth Fitness Program](#), [Let’s Move! Active Schools](#) and the [Jump Rope For Heart/Hoops For Heart](#) programs.

With approximately [50 million students](#) currently enrolled in America’s elementary and secondary schools (grades pre-K to 12), “50 Million Strong by 2029” is SHAPE America’s commitment to empower all children to lead healthy and active lives through effective health and physical education programs.

Each spring, SHAPE America hosts the nation’s premier professional development event for health and physical educators, the [SHAPE America National Convention & Expo](#).



**JOIN TODAY** and you'll become part of a network of thousands of industry professionals — from preK–12 educators who teach our country's youth about the benefits of living a healthy, physically active lifestyle, to university professors who conduct much-needed research and teach our industry's future professionals. Approximately 50 million students are currently enrolled in America's elementary and secondary schools. As a health and physical education professional, you are uniquely positioned to deliver the benefits of living a physically active and healthy life.

**SHAPE America's training, tools and resources will help you succeed in your current job... and advance in your career. We can help you:**

- ✓ Develop and implement student assessments
  - ✓ Plan a standards-based lesson
  - ✓ Gain support from your administrator
  - ✓ Connect with experienced teachers who have valuable advice to share
  - ✓ Find grant funding
  - ✓ Keep up-to-date with the latest research and trends in the profession
- And more!**

**Here's a sample of the members-only benefits you'll receive:**

- FREE access to professional development **WEBINARS** (an annual value of more than \$470!)
- Full connection to **EXCHANGE**, the only online community dedicated solely to your profession
- Exclusive **DISCOUNTS** — up to 30% — on books and events, including regional conferences and the SHAPE America National Convention & Expo
- **SUBSCRIPTION** to your choice of award-winning, peer-reviewed journals with in-depth coverage of the news, trends and best practices in your area of expertise
- Access to monthly **ACTIVITY CALENDARS** through our Teacher's Toolbox
- Access to **MENTOR MATCH** a new program that connects mentors and protégés

Join at [shapeamerica.org/membership](https://shapeamerica.org/membership)



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