

Reviewing ESSA State Plans

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What is the Opportunity?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the education law that is replacing No Child Left Behind and restructuring how and where federal money for education is allocated. Currently, every state is working to develop their plan for spending ESSA funds. Every district, school, teacher, and student will be impacted by these state plans.

Now is the time for our community to do what we can to ensure that state plans adequately support teachers and the teaching of mathematics. You can take action by organizing a review team to analyze your state's plan and provide visible feedback to state leaders during the public comment period in July. This **ESSA Review Toolkit** is designed to help you plan, run, and share results from an effective ESSA review team meeting.

Thank you for engaging in this important work as a champion for mathematics education.

Timeline for Review

- > **July** – Plan ESSA Review Team Meetings
 - » **Three Weeks Out** – Hold leadership team planning call
 - » **Three Weeks Out** – Schedule and finalize logistics for review team meeting
 - » **Two Weeks Out** – Invite potential review team members
 - » **One Week Out** – Send reminder and pre-reading to review team members
- > **Late July** – Host meeting and submit public comments
- > **Late July / Early August** – Close of 30-day public comment period
- > **August** – 30-day governor review period
- > **September 18** – Final plans submitted to USDE



Building a Review Team

- Identify *champions* for math education in your area and invite them to be part of the leadership team for the review. These *champions* may also be willing to organize their own local reviews.
- On the leadership team planning call, identify additional potential review team members who have the interest and/or expertise to participate.
- Keep your review team small, but be open to involvement. We recommend identifying about 10 participants. If there is more interest, breakout groups can keep the conversations focused and ensure all participants have a voice in the process.
- Consider NCTM affiliate organization members, Math Teachers' Circle members, K–20 educators, instructional coaches, administrators, parents, business and industry leaders, and representatives from nonprofit and philanthropic organizations for the review team.

Building Influence

- Submit public comments through the process specified by your state's education agency.
- Increase the visibility of this work:
 - » **Posting on social media.** We suggest using the hashtags #ESSA and #MTBoS and mentioning @CCSSO, @success_STEM, @NCTM, @MathTeachCircle, and/or @StateMathLeaders, and also tweeting at your state's Chief State School Officer and Governor.
 - » **Writing a letter to the editor of local or state newspapers.** This letter should summarize the findings of your review. The 100Kin10 Every Student Succeeds with STEM hub has some nice [talking points](#) to help contextualize your work.
 - » **Telling us about your meeting.** Visit <http://nctm.org/essatoolkit>. This will help NCTM, the Math Teachers' Circle Network, and ASSM further amplify your work by incorporating it into our national-level communications.

Hosting a Meeting

- > **Meeting duration: 2–3 hours**
- > **Before the Meeting**
 - » Assign readers to review specific sections of your state's ESSA plan. Ask them to use the **Reading Guide** (ESSA Review Tool #2) and **Analysis Tool** (ESSA Review Tool #3) to focus their reading and comments.
- > **Sample Agenda (~3 hours)**
 - » Use or customize the provided **PowerPoint presentation** (ESSA Review Tool #4) to orient your reviewers to the work at the beginning of the meeting (**10–15 minutes**).
 - » For each ESSA section reviewed, ask reviewers to summarize their responses to each of the **Guiding Questions** in the **Analysis Tool** (**1–1.5 hours**).
- > Produce a succinct summary of comments that can be submitted to your state at the end of the meeting (**1 hour**).
- > Take a photo of your review team and share it on social media (**5 minutes**).
- > Make assignments for team members to continue building influence after the meeting (**5 minutes**).