



Stanhope Public School District

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Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

On December 10, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law as Public Law Number 114-95. ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 “to ensure that every child achieves.” ESSA is the nation’s general education law and, as such, has been revised by Congress many times over the years. The last reauthorization took place in 2001 and was called the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Given the importance of education in the lives of children with and without disabilities, it comes as no surprise that the education community is highly motivated to learn the in’s and out’s of the ESSA—what’s new, what’s different, what must now change in how we approach and deliver education in public elementary and secondary schools across the country. ESSA includes provisions that will help to ensure success for students and schools. Listed below are a few of these provisions:

- Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students.
- Requires—for the first time—that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- Helps to support and grow local innovations—including evidence-based and place-based interventions developed by local leaders and educators.
- Sustains and expands this administration's historic investments in increasing access to high-quality preschool.
- Maintains an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time.

The Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR) offers additional resources for parents on the ESSA at <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/essa-reauth/>. This webpage helps to streamline your search for accurate information on this newest version of our education law. This page provides a wealth of information and connections, so a quick-links menu has been provided to help you jump quickly to your area of interest.

For additional information on ESSA and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) website at www.ed.gov/essa. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Respectfully,

Timothy R. Nicinski
Superintendent