



SB 20: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
Senate Committee on Education
February 2, 2017

Good afternoon Chair Roblan and members of the Committee. For the record, I am Theresa Richards, Direct of Federal Systems in the Oregon Department of Education. I am here today to provide testimony on SB 20 and have prepared a brief presentation on the Every Student Succeeds Act as background.

Background:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, with the goal of providing “full educational opportunity” for all students as a civil rights law. The ESEA was reauthorized in 2002 with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). NCLB put in place measures that exposed achievement gaps among traditionally underserved students and their peers. In 2012, the Obama administration began granting flexibility to states regarding specific requirements of NCLB in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state- developed plans designed to close achievement gaps, increase equity, improve the quality of instruction, and increase outcomes for all students. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, reauthorizing the ESEA and the nation’s longstanding commitment to educational equity and excellence for all students. ESSA offers new flexibility to states and districts to define what high quality education means for students with parameters to ensure appropriate accountability.

See the attached PowerPoint presentation for an overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Issue:

Current references in state statute to the No Child Left Behind Act are out of date with passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015.

Legislation:

SB 20 is a technical fix which updates references to No Child Left Behind to reflect passage of the Every Student Succeed Act.

Concerns:

There are no concerns with SB 20; however, two additional amendments are currently being drafted to further conform to federal law.

Fiscal:

While there will be activities and costs related to implementing the revised federal law, SB 20 does not represent an additional cost to the department.