


# AN ANALYSIS OF ALABAMA'S ESSA PLAN

This dashboard analyzes Alabama's plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifically its commitment to equity and excellence and its compliance with the law. This analysis is not all-encompassing but rather focuses on the indicators most essential for advancing equitable educational opportunities for all students. Alabama submitted its plan on October 12, 2017, and the U.S. Department of Education approved it on April 17, 2018. Full text is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/alconsolidatedstateplanfinal.pdf>. View ESSA equity dashboards for other states at [www.all4ed.org/essa](http://www.all4ed.org/essa).




## LONG-TERM GOALS


### Academic Achievement

 69.6% of students proficient in reading and 72% of students proficient in math by 2030


### Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

 Reduce by half the number of students not proficient in each subgroup by 2030


### 4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

 93.6% of students graduating by 2030

### Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate


 5-year cohort graduation rate goal of 97%

### English Language Proficiency


 Accounts for students' initial proficiency level and time in a language instruction education program in setting student goals with maximum of 7 years to attain proficiency

## ACCOUNTABILITY


### Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

 Disaggregates subgroups by race, ethnicity, income, English language proficiency, and disability status


### N-Size

 20 students

### School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

 Chronic absenteeism for all schools; college and career readiness (students completing at least 1 of the following readiness indicators: achieving benchmark score on the ACT® or ACT WorkKeys®, passing an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam, earning college credit, earning an industry credential, or enlisting in the military) for high schools


### High School Graduation Rate

 Gives 4-year cohort graduation rate 4 times more weight than the 5-year cohort graduation rate


### Weighting of Academic Indicators

 100% weight for all grades

### Testing Participation Rates


 No credit for untested students; schools that do not meet 95% participation requirement will complete improvement plan and, if they fail to meet the requirement for 2 consecutive years, have their summative score reduced by 2 percentage points

### Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance


 Uses an index (100-point scale) based on subgroup performance to identify schools for targeted support; does not otherwise rate schools

## SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

### Definition of "Consistently Underperforming" Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

 Definition is not meaningfully different from "additional targeted support" and is unlikely to identify additional schools for support

### High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

 Unclear whether Alabama uses 4- or 5-year cohort graduation rate

## ★ BONUS

Alabama identifies Title I high schools with graduation rates more than 10 percentage points below state average

**Note:** Some indicators do not apply to some states and do not appear in the analysis included on the front of this document. The Alliance for Excellent Education set the parameters associated with the green, yellow, and red designations.

## LONG-TERM GOALS

### Academic Achievement

- **Green:** 75% or more of all students proficient on statewide assessments by 2030 or equivalently rigorous goal
- **Yellow:** 60–74.9% of all students proficient by 2030 or 75% or more proficient by 2031–39 or equivalently rigorous goal
- **Red:** Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

### Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

- **Green:** Same long-term goals for each subgroup or similarly ambitious commitment to closing achievement gaps
- **Yellow:** Less ambitious goals but requires higher rates of growth from lower-performing subgroups
- **Red:** Same or similar rates of academic growth for all subgroups

### 4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- **Green:** 90% or more of students graduating by 2030
- **Yellow:** 85–89.9% of students graduating by 2030 or 90% or more graduating by 2031–39
- **Red:** Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

### Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- **Green:** At least 3 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal or 1 percentage point higher if 4-year cohort rate goal is at least 90%
- **Yellow:** 1–2 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- **Red:** Goals are the same or state does not set goals for each cohort rate

### English Language Proficiency

- **Green:** Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level in setting student targets with maximum timeline of no more than 6 years to achieve proficiency
- **Yellow:** Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level with maximum timeline of 7 years to achieve proficiency
- **Red:** Does not account for initial age/grade or proficiency level and/or sets maximum timeline of 8 or more years to achieve proficiency

## ACCOUNTABILITY

### Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

- **Green:** State does not use super-subgroup or uses it only in addition to disaggregated subgroups for identifying schools for targeted support and improvement (TSI)
- **Red:** State uses super-subgroups instead of required subgroups for identifying schools for TSI

### N-Size

- **Green:** N-size for accountability of 10 or fewer students
- **Yellow:** N-size for accountability of 11–25 students
- **Red:** N-size for accountability of 26 or more students

### School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

- **Green:** Research-based statewide SQSS measures that can be disaggregated by student subgroup
- **Yellow:** Inconclusive research to support SQSS measures or significant SQSS measures are in development but will be statewide and capable of disaggregation by student subgroup
- **Red:** SQSS measures lack research and/or are not statewide or capable of disaggregation by student subgroup

### High School Graduation Rate Indicator

- **Green:** Exclusively uses, or gives more weight to, 4-year cohort graduation rate
- **Yellow:** Uses 4- and extended-year cohort graduation rates and weights 4-year rate equally or less than other rates
- **Red:** Does not use 4-year cohort graduation rate or uses another unlawful graduation rate calculation

### Weighting of Academic Indicators

- **Green:** 75% or more weight on academic indicators including measures based on state tests, college and career readiness, and chronic absenteeism
- **Yellow:** 50–74% weight on academic indicators
- **Red:** Less than 50% weight on academic indicators

### Testing Participation Rates

- **Green:** No credit for untested students or similarly rigorous consequences
- **Yellow:** Less rigorous consequences that have limited implications for accountability
- **Red:** Does not specify consequences for untested students

### Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance in School Ratings

- **Green:** Includes all ESSA subgroups in all school ratings or uses a decision rule to ensure ratings reflect ESSA student subgroups
- **Yellow:** Includes subgroups in all school ratings but does not include all ESSA subgroups or may obscure subgroup performance on school dashboards
- **Red:** Does not include all ESSA subgroups in all school ratings

## SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

### Definition of “Consistently Underperforming” Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

- **Green:** Definition is meaningfully different from “additional targeted support” (ATS) and triggers identification based on low performance on a *subset* of indicators
- **Yellow:** Definition is meaningfully different from ATS and triggers identification based on low performance across *all* indicators
- **Red:** Definition is not meaningfully different from, or is narrower than, ATS or does not comply with ESSA

### High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

- **Green:** Uses 4-year cohort graduation rate exclusively
- **Yellow:** Uses 5-year cohort graduation rate
- **Red:** Uses 6-year (or longer) cohort graduation rate