



Resource Guide: Early Childhood Education in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Trying Together is excited by the promise of ESSA to envision a preschool through twelfth grade continuum. Now that ESSA more strongly supports early learning, we feel there is an opportunity for school districts to continue efforts to expand access to high-quality early learning, encourage alignment and collaboration in the birth through third grade continuum, and support early childhood educators. Trying Together collected resources focused on early learning opportunities in ESSA. This is not an exhaustive list of resources. The following documents have been most helpful in guiding our understanding of early learning under the new federal law.

[New America and Center for Early Learning Outcomes blog series](#): Highlights the opportunities and challenges for early learning under the new federal law. Topics include: Kindergarten Transition; Family Engagement; English Language Learners; Chronic Absence; Teacher-Child Interactions; Early Childhood Workforce. The blog posts point to evidence-based solutions and provide examples of how states and school districts are addressing early learning in their plans.

[Early Learning in ESSA: Expanding Opportunities to Support Our Youngest Learners](#): Non-regulatory guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. The guidance emphasizes the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) now envisions a preschool through 12th grade continuum. It highlights three main ways ESSA can support early learning: (1) expanding access to high-quality early learning; (2) encouraging alignment and collaboration from birth through third grade; and (3) supporting educators.

[Unlocking ESSA's Potential to Support Early Learning](#): New America and BUILD Initiative paper that explores major provisions to provide additional support for early learning under ESSA.

[Summary and Analysis of Early Learning Provisions in ESSA](#): First Five Years Fund document presenting ways the different funding streams are directed to support early learning. The analysis provides a concise summary of the requirements and possibilities for supporting early learning at the state and local level including Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Title VI, and the new preschool development grants.

[What Early Learning in ESSA Can Look Like for States and Districts](#): Another First Five Years Fund resource guide that outlines the ESSA Early Learning Provisions, Non-Regulatory Guidance, and Planning Ideas and Supplementary Resources. The document provides resource links in each section categorized by the funding streams in the federal plan.

[ESSA and Early Childhood Education: Opportunities for State Leaders](#): Concise brief highlighting ways early education can contribute to school improvement efforts. Whether or not you're a state leader, it is a helpful review for how ESSA can support early learning. The brief lists the funding opportunities, policy opportunities, policy mandates, and key questions for ECE in ESSA.