

Every Student Succeeds Act

Topic Discussion Guide

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Ohio will create a plan to better align our local, state and federal programs to help all students be successful.

The Ohio Department of Education is committed to meaningfully engaging a diverse group of stakeholders through a variety of methods and opportunities to solicit thoughts, opinions and recommendations concerning provisions in Ohio's state plan. Everyone's input is required to create a plan that is deeply rooted in the needs of Ohio's students.

Ohio is conducting a series of topic specific webinars. Each topic will have a detailed discussion guide. The fourth topic, "Highly Qualified Teacher status transition," is discussed below.

WHAT IS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER?

There are three components to meet the highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirement according to Ohio Revised Code 3319.074 (A)(3):

1. Teachers must have at least a bachelor's degree;
2. Teachers must have a certificate or license that is appropriate to the grade and subject they are teaching; AND
3. Teachers must be able to demonstrate their subject area expertise in the core academic subject(s) they teach.

WHAT DOES ESSA REQUIRE?

With the Dec. 10, 2015 passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states are no longer required to report to the United States Department of Education that all teachers of core subjects are highly qualified.

However, under state law, Ohio continues to require highly qualified teachers (HQT) in core academic subjects in the 2016-2017 transition year as dictated by current state legislation, report card requirements and the state equity plan. All teachers of core academic subjects must meet the HQT requirement. If these teachers are not currently required to report their HQT status in EMIS, they should have their HQT documentation available for audit purposes.

According to ORC 3319.074 (A)(1) "Core academic areas" includes reading and English language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, government, economics, fine arts, history and geography.

HOW ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS CURRENTLY ADDRESSED?

According to Ohio law, no city, exempted village, local, joint vocational or cooperative education school district shall employ any classroom teacher hired after July 1, 2002, to provide instruction in a core subject area to any student enrolled in a school that receives funds under Title I, Part A, unless the teacher is highly qualified.

Highly qualified teacher and qualified paraprofessional reporting occurs on an annual basis. Many stakeholders have a role to ensure that highly qualified teacher and qualified paraprofessional reporting is accurate. A Highly Qualified Teacher toolkit is produced on an annual basis to help locals meet HQT requirements.

The Ohio Department of Education must 1) measure the extent to which all students have highly qualified teachers, particularly minority and disadvantaged students; 2) adopt goals and plans to ensure all teachers are highly qualified; and 3) publicly report plans and progress in meeting teacher quality goals.

WHAT ARE THE SUBSEQUENT IMPLICATIONS OF ESSA AND HQT?

USDOE has identified FY17 as a “transition year” in order to give Ohio and other states across the country an opportunity for orderly preparation and shift away from the past No Child Left Behind federal requirements to the current ESSA legislation.

Ohio will continue to require highly qualified teachers in core subjects during the 2016-2017 transition year. Ohio statute remains in effect until amended and serves as the basis for continuing HQT requirements. As prescribed in ESSA, the Ohio Department of Education will be working on redefining “qualified” during the transition year.

In compliance with ESSA and Ohio’s 2015 Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators, districts will develop local equity plans to address access to excellent educators. This includes a gap analysis which provides greater insight into student populations receiving instruction from unqualified, out-of-field, inexperienced or ineffective teachers and principals. HQT data is currently included within local equity planning. These plans are to be submitted through CCIP by Sept. 30, 2016.

For more information on Ohio’s Equity Plan and local requirements, [please register](#) for the Aug. 24 webinar which covers equitable access to effective teachers.