Including information about ESSA on state network websites is a great way to inform providers and other partners about opportunities within the law that can help afterschool and summer programs.

Below is a template to help state networks organize information and resources related to ESSA on their own websites. The template includes a brief explanation about the law and how states are working to implement it, as well as resources to help afterschool advocates engage with decision-makers. This template is intended as a guide. We encourage you to tailor it to meet the specific asks and needs of your online audiences—and to share your ESSA page widely across your network. If you have questions or need more information, contact Jillian Luchner, JLuchner@afterschoolalliance.org.

What is the Every Student Succeeds Act?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the new K-12 federal education law, which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and replaces No Child Left Behind. It was signed into law in 2015 and will be phased in over the next few years. The law was designed to increase opportunities for local input and flexible decision making based on what communities and states need. A key goal of the new law is to ensure all students have access to a quality education—inside and outside the classroom.

The law has 10 Titles (sections), three of which are very important for afterschool:

- **Title I** – Includes school accountability and interventions (like afterschool) to help support students. Each state is now determining how schools will be held accountable (i.e., how to measure a good school) and local districts with community input will be expected to determine what supports they need to be successful.
- **Title II** – Includes teacher professional developmentincluding ways where school day and afterschool teachers can work and be trained in coordination.
- **Title IV** – Includes two important parts:
  - **Title IV A** has funding for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.
  - **Title IV B** funds the 21st Century Community Learning Centers – the largest federal funding stream for afterschool, before school and summer programs.

What You (as a program, parent, partner) Can Do:

1. Keep track of timelines, input/listening sessions and progress within your state: Find your state’s ESSA page
2. Who should you reach out to and how? *How can networks and providers get involved?*
3. Be prepared with talking points about how afterschool helps: *Talking points for ESSA Titles*
4. Send a letter to superintendents and principals to let them know how your program is poised to help: *Sample letter to superintendents or principals*
5. Share research about afterschool and student success indicators
   - Academic Achievement: *Handout and Fact Card*
   - Closing Achievement Gaps: *Handout and Fact Card*
   - Graduation Rates: *Handout and Fact Card*
   - Chronic Absenteeism: *Handout and Fact Card*