

Opportunities and Responsibilities: A First Look at the Every Student Succeeds Act

February 26-27, 2016
Westin Peachtree Plaza
Atlanta, Georgia



NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

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Welcome!

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* – signed by the president just a few months ago – remains true to the original intent of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1964*. ESSA’s statement of purpose is:

“...to provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.”

With this goal in mind, we welcome you and your colleagues from around the country to this convening. The passage of *ESSA* gives state policymakers a new opportunity to build upon the work of the past 15 years with an increased degree of autonomy – and, with that autonomy, increased responsibilities. Despite continuous efforts to improve education, too many students continue to fall short in this country – not graduating with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in postsecondary education, in the workplace and in life. Now is a time for leadership at the state level. *ESSA* invites states to rethink failed strategies, tweak promising ones, and double down on what is working.

This convening will facilitate a dialogue among state policymakers, national resource experts, and senior staff from the U.S. Department of Education around the issues of school accountability, high-quality assessments, interventions in low-performing schools and teacher evaluation systems. Like you, we are excited about the opportunity that *ESSA* presents for states to learn from each other, innovate, and continue to pursue equity and excellence for all children. We hope to spur your thinking and raise vital questions about the implementation of this new law, recognizing that some of the specifics will be determined in the regulatory process yet to come. Our objectives are to equip you with knowledge of the basic requirements of the law, and – perhaps more importantly – give you time and space to consider how you will lead your state forward under *ESSA*.

Thank you for your engagement and commitment to the education of all students.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Rizzo, Ed.D.
Executive Director & CEO
The Hunt Institute



Kristen Amundson
Executive Director
National Association of
State Boards of Education



Michelle Exstrom
Education Program Director
National Conference of State
Legislatures

AGENDA

Friday, February 26th

4:00-4:15 PM	Welcome	Peachtree
Dr. Judith A. Rizzo , Executive Director & CEO – The Hunt Institute		
4:15-5:00 PM	Session 1: The Every Student Succeeds Act - A Primer	
<p>This session will include an overview of ESSA highlighting the significant shift of control and responsibilities to the states and surfacing new requirements and opportunities. The presentation will provide policymakers with a common fact base for thinking about ESSA and its implications for students, educators and schools.</p> <p>Speaker: Lee Posey, Federal Affairs Counsel - National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)</p>		
5:00-5:30 PM	Session 2: USED: Timeline and Approach to ESSA Regulatory Process	
<p>With the reauthorization of ESEA now complete, additional details around implementation of ESSA will be developed in federal regulations. While there are still many specifics yet to be determined, Ary Amerikaner will discuss the anticipated regulatory process and timelines for various parts of ESSA and will also answer general questions about the law's implementation in 2016.</p> <p>Speaker: Ary Amerikaner, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy & Strategic Initiatives - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), U.S. Department of Education</p>		
5:30-6:00 PM	Break	
6:00-7:30 PM	Networking Reception and Dinner	Chastain E

Saturday, February 27th

7:30-8:30 AM	Breakfast	Chastain E
8:30-8:40 AM	Welcome Back	Peachtree
Dr. Judith A. Rizzo , Executive Director & CEO – The Hunt Institute		
8:40-10:00 AM	Session 3: School Accountability Under the ESSA - Understanding New Requirements and Implications	
<p>One of the most significant changes from <i>No Child Left Behind Act</i> to ESSA is the relaxation of prescriptive federal requirements for state accountability systems. In this session, experts discuss new school accountability requirements in the ESSA and the expanded role for states in establishing a system that meaningfully differentiates between schools. In particular, the discussion will focus on possible indicators to be incorporated into state models, and how states can address the growing number of parents and students opting out of assessments.</p> <p>Moderator: Kristen Amundson, Executive Director – National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Resource Experts: Aimee Rogstad Guidera, President & CEO – Data Quality Campaign Ryan J. Smith, Executive Director – The Education Trust - West *Chris Hofmann, Teacher – KIPP Raices Academy, East Los Angeles, CA *Rachel Man, Teacher – Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, Prince Georges County, MD</p> <p><i>*Finalists in the Thomas B. Fordham Institute ESSA Accountability Design Competition</i></p>		
10:00-10:15 AM	Break	

AGENDA

10:15-11:30 AM	Session 4: Low-Performing Schools Under the ESSA - What Works and How to Measure Improvement	
<p>Because ESSA shifts power from the federal level to the states, state policymakers have more responsibility for school improvement than they've had in decades. During this session, resource experts will discuss on-the-ground experiences intervening in low-performing schools and the different ways states and districts have approached pursuing school improvement, with a focus on crafting state policy to improve the schools that need it most.</p> <p>Moderator: Chris Minnich, Executive Director – Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Resource Experts: Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent – Miami-Dade County Public Schools Dr. Terry Holliday, Former Commissioner of Education – Kentucky Department of Education</p>		
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	Ann Whalen Reflects on the Foundational Principles of ESSA	
<p>The transition from NCLB to ESSA brings many changes for states and rebalances federal, state and local control. However, ESSA still represents Congress taking one more step forward to fulfill the same goals that have animated different iterations of ESEA. Ann Whalen will talk about the intent of the new law, the threads that continue to tie together federal education policy over time, and how the Department – and states – can and must implement the law consistent with those principles.</p> <p>Speaker: Ann Whalen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Delegated the Duties of the Assistant Secretary - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), U.S. Department of Education</p>		
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	Chastain E
1:00-2:15 PM	Session 5: Assessment Under the ESSA - Instituting a High-Quality Assessment System	
<p>High-quality assessments matter and impact many aspects of policy. They can help teachers improve instruction, complement the implementation of new curriculum, signal to policymakers about school quality, and assess the skills students need to prepare for success after high school graduation. In this session, experts will discuss existing state and district assessments, college entrance exams, auditing state and district assessments, and innovative changes in assessments going forward.</p> <p>Moderator: Lucille Davy, Senior Advisor – The Hunt Institute Resource Experts: Dr. Louis Fabrizio, Director of Data, Research & Federal Policy – North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Dr. Amber Northern, Senior Vice President – Thomas B. Fordham Institute Dr. Celine Coggins, CEO – Teach Plus</p>		
2:15-3:15 PM	Session 6: Educator Evaluation Under the ESSA - Reflecting and Moving Forward	
<p>Over the last five years, teacher evaluations systems have undergone significant changes – in particular, some states and districts have begun to integrate student assessment outcomes into evaluations. In this session, experts will take stock of how those systems have functioned in practice, address the experience of educators adapting to new systems, and will discuss paths forward for thoughtful educator evaluation systems.</p> <p>Moderator: Michelle Exstrom, Education Program Director – National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Resource Experts: Jamie Woodson, President & CEO – Tennessee SCORE Dr. Holly Boffy, Program Director, Teacher and Leader Development – Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)</p>		
3:15-3:30 PM	Closing	
<p>Lucille Davy, Senior Advisor – The Hunt Institute</p>		



Judith A. Rizzo, Ed.D.
Executive Director & CEO, The Hunt Institute

Judith A. Rizzo has been on the front lines of public education reform efforts in cities across the country. As the executive director and CEO, she has grown The Hunt Institute into a national resource for governors, legislators, and other political, business, and education leaders, supporting their development and implementation of effective education policies and programs. Prior to The Institute, Dr. Rizzo served as deputy chancellor for instruction for the New York City Public Schools. There, she implemented well-respected reforms, including the creation of the *Chancellor's District* to provide direct oversight of the city's lowest-performing schools. These schools outperformed schools with similar demographics and challenges and have become an often-imitated turnaround model for failing schools. Under her leadership, the Extended Time School (ETS) model and the Early Childhood language Assessment System (ECIAS) were designed and implemented. During her tenure, Dr. Rizzo introduced a comprehensive system of content standards, aligned assessments, and teacher development.



Lee Posey
Federal Affairs Counsel, National Conference of State Legislatures

Lee Posey is a federal affairs counsel working with the education committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). She conducts NCSL lobbying activities in education, representing state positions and concerns to Congress and the Administration. Posey has been at NCSL since 1999. Her NCSL experience includes four years as committee director for the Human Services and Welfare Committee and the Agriculture and Energy Committee. Before coming to NCSL, Posey was a policy analyst for the Georgia Senate, focused on education and child care issues. In that position, she staffed the standing Senate Education Committee and various interim education study committees. She also worked for the education development division of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, performing research on education issues, analyzing budget requests from education agencies, assisting education agencies in implementing programs and policies, and analyzing state and federal legislation affecting education.



Ary Amerikaner
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy & Strategic Initiatives, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Ary Amerikaner is the deputy assistant secretary for policy and strategic initiatives in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Amerikaner began her tenure at the Department of Education in 2013 as a senior policy advisor in the office of planning, evaluation, and policy development. Prior to that position, Amerikaner was a law clerk for the Honorable Francis Allegra in the Court of Federal Claims from 2012 to 2013. She also served as a legislative assistant in the office of Congresswoman Mazie Hirono and a research assistant in the Education Policy Center of the Urban Institute.

RESOURCE EXPERTS



Kristen Amundson

Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education

Kristen Amundson brings more than two decades of experience as a policymaker to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). She represented the 44th District in the Virginia General Assembly from 1999-2009. During that time, she was a member of Virginia's P-16 Council and the Southern Regional Education Board. Before successfully running for an Assembly seat, Amundson—a former teacher—served for nearly a decade on the Fairfax County, Virginia, School Board, including two years as its chair. Most recently, she was the senior vice president for external affairs at Education Sector, an independent think tank. She writes frequently on education issues and has been published in *The Washington Post* and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, among others.



Aimee Rogstad Guidera

President & CEO, Data Quality Campaign

Aimee Rogstad Guidera is the president and CEO of the Data Quality Campaign (DQC), a national, nonprofit organization leading the effort to empower educators, students, parents, and policymakers with the information they need to make the best decisions to improve student outcomes. Before founding DQC, Guidera served as the director of the office of the National Center for Educational Achievement in Washington, D.C. She also served as vice president of programs for the National Alliance of Business, worked in the education division of the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices, and taught for the Japanese Ministry of Education.



Chris Hofmann

Teacher, KIPP Raices Academy, East Los Angeles, CA

Chris Hofmann is a 4th-grade teacher at KIPP Raices Academy in East Los Angeles. He is an alumnus of the Teach Plus Teaching Policy Fellowship. In collaboration with other classroom teachers, Hofmann created a proposal for a state accountability system that was named a finalist in Fordham's Institute's *ESSA Accountability Design Competition*. He has also written about the *Every Student Succeeds Act* for the *Huffington Post* and *LA Schools Report*.



Rachel Man

Teacher, Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, Prince Georges County, MD

Rachel Man teaches 6th-grade reading and English language arts at Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, where she is also 6th-grade team lead and coordinator of the positive behavior interventions and supports program. Man is a current fellow with the Maryland cohort of Leading Educators and has previously taught 7th-grade reading and English language arts at G. James Gholson Middle School. She graduated summa cum laude from Messiah College with a bachelor's degree in English and secondary teaching certification.



Ryan J. Smith

Executive Director, Education Trust – West

Prior to becoming the executive director of The Education Trust–West, Ryan J. Smith was the director of education programs and policy for the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, where he was responsible for the education program and policy efforts for the organization. He also coordinated Communities for Los Angeles Student Success (CLASS), a Los Angeles-based coalition of civil rights, education and community advocacy groups dedicated to closing the opportunity and achievement gaps for students of color and students living in poverty. Prior to his role at the United Way, Smith worked for former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s Partnership for Los Angeles Schools as senior director of family and community engagement. There, he led a team that improved parent involvement over 40 percent and built systems within schools to help support authentic family, school and community partnerships. Smith founded the Parent College and is an Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family Fellow. He was named by *Education Week* as one of the “Ten Education Leaders to Watch” nationally.



Chris Minnich

Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers

Chris Minnich was appointed executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in 2012. Under his leadership, he has ushered in a new strategic plan in which CCSSO is committed to making sure all students participating in our public education systems graduate prepared for college, careers and life. Minnich first joined CCSSO in 2008 as part of the standards program. He then assumed the role of strategic initiative director of standards, assessment and accountability in 2009, where he facilitated the state-led *Common Core State Standards Initiative*. In 2010, he became the senior membership director at CCSSO. Before CCSSO, Minnich worked at Harcourt School Publishers, where he held multiple positions all focused on the advancement and improvement of assessments.



Alberto Carvalho

Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Alberto Carvalho has served as superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the nation’s 4th largest school system, since September 2008. Under his leadership, M-DCPS district has successfully elevated its academic profile and streamlined its business operations and financial systems. Now widely considered one of the nation’s highest-performing urban school systems, M-DCPS was named as the 2014 *College Board Advanced Placement Equity and Excellence District of the Year*, as well as the 2012 winner of the *Broad Prize for Urban Education*. Carvalho is also the self-appointed principal of two award-winning schools—the Primary Learning Center and the iPrep Academy, and has served as president of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents. He was Florida’s 2014 *Superintendent of the Year* as well as the 2014 *National Superintendent of the Year*, and recently named by Scholastic Administrator as one of “The Fantastic Five” educators making a difference in America.



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

Former Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Terry Holliday, was Kentucky’s 5th Commissioner of Education from 2009 to 2015. Previously, he served as superintendent of the Iredell-Statesville School District in North Carolina from 2002 until 2009. Under his leadership, the school district received the *2008 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award*. In December 2010, he was named to the board of directors of the Council of Chief State School Officers and served as president. Dr. Holliday also served on the National Assessment Governing Board and is currently a member of the Malcom Baldrige Board of Overseers. He is the co-author of *Running All the Red Lights: A Journey of System-Wide Educational Reform*.



Ann Whalen

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Delegated the Duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Ann Whalen has served more than five years in the Obama Administration with the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to her current role at the Department, Whalen was director of the implementation and support unit, providing technical assistance to states and school districts as they rolled out new reform programs to improve student results. In that role, she managed a 35-member team and a portfolio of more than \$50 billion in grant programs. She also served as a special assistant to Secretary Arne Duncan, helping shape administration policy across a range of issues. Additionally, Whalen worked with Duncan at Chicago Public Schools for six years and served in the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development under the administration of former Mayor Richard M. Daley.



Lucille Davy

Senior Advisor, The Hunt Institute

Lucille Davy started her career as a lawyer and adjunct professor of mathematics, a subject for which she received a bachelor’s degree and K-12 teacher certification in New Jersey. Her experience led her to serve as special counsel for education policy for two New Jersey governors. In 2005, she was named New Jersey’s commissioner of education, where she focused on improving early literacy and math instruction, expanding early childhood education programs and raising expectations on statewide assessments. Davy joined The Hunt Institute as a senior advisor in 2010, where she works with state and national policy leaders to support the implementation of college and career ready standards. She also currently serves as vice chair of the National Assessment Governing Board.



Celine Coggins, Ph.D.

CEO, Teach Plus

Celine Coggins founded Teach Plus in 2009 to create leadership and growth paths for excellent teachers and help stem their attrition from high-needs schools. In her role as CEO, Dr. Coggins sets the national agenda for the organization that speaks to both teacher needs and policy opportunities. She started her career as a classroom teacher in Worcester, Massachusetts, and went on to become a special assistant to the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, working on a set of initiatives to improve the quality of the state’s teaching force. Upon completing her doctorate at Stanford University, Coggins worked at Cambridge’s Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy, an education-focused think tank. She originally launched Teach Plus as a subsidiary of the Center. Coggins is a National Center for Teacher Quality advisor, an Aspen Institute Education Fellow, and a Mind Trust Education Entrepreneurship Fellow.

RESOURCE EXPERTS



Lou Fabrizio, Ph.D.

Director of Data, Research & Federal Policy, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Lou Fabrizio has been a member of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) for 22 years. In 2011, he was named the director of the division of data, research and federal policy, where he is responsible for the management of the P-20W longitudinal data system federal grant, submission of several federal reports for the U.S. Department of Education, and understanding federal policy related to the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, including the ESEA Flexibility (waiver) process and now the more recent *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. Dr. Fabrizio was a long-standing member of the National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and currently serves as a member of the National Center for Education Statistics Advisory Task Force. He has been an active member of numerous other state and national committees/organizations and previously worked in several different capacities for CTB McGraw-Hill, the test publishing company, from 1982 to 1996.



Amber Northern, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Amber Northern is senior vice president for research at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, where she supervises the Institute's studies and research staff. She has published in the areas of educational accountability, principal leadership, teacher quality, and academic standards, among others. Prior to joining Fordham, Dr. Northern served as senior study director at Westat. In that role, she provided evaluation services for various federal, state, and local education agencies, as well as oversaw multiple research studies involving reading instruction, math and science partnerships, performance-based pay, and more. Her work and commentary has been featured in various print and broadcast media, including Fox News, HuffPost Live, NPR, *National Review*, and *Education Next*. Northern serves on the board of trustees for Somerset Prep, a charter school in Washington, D.C.



Michelle Exstrom

Education Program Director, National Conference of State Legislatures

Michelle Exstrom is a program director at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where she oversees the program's work on educator effectiveness, finance, college and career readiness, assessments, accountability, school choice and education data. Exstrom also staffs NCSL's Education Standing Committee. Since joining NCSL in 1999, she has tracked and published annual reports on education legislation in all 50 states and numerous reports, books and magazine articles on education policy. Prior to NCSL, Exstrom served as a senior legislative assistant in the Colorado General Assembly's Office of Legislative Legal Services. In this capacity, she assisted in drafting finance, taxation, and state and local government legislation and with legal research for the General Assembly.



Holly Boffy, Ed.D.

Program Director, Teacher and Leader Development, Council of Chief State School Officers

Holly Boffy is the program director of teacher and leader development for the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). She supports state departments of education in developing and implementing programs to support teachers and leaders. Prior to joining CCSSO, Dr. Boffy served as the director of professional development and university programs for the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana. She began her career as a middle school teacher and taught at the University of Louisiana, - Lafayette. In 2011, she was elected to represent District 7 on the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Boffy is the *2010 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year*, a *2011 Women Who Mean Business* Honoree, and is a National Board Certified Teacher.



Jamie Woodson

President & CEO, Tennessee SCORE

A leading figure in spearheading Tennessee's efforts to better prepare students for postsecondary education and the workforce, Jamie Woodson guides SCORE's work as president and CEO to build and strengthen partnerships with leaders in Tennessee and across the nation. Prior to SCORE, Woodson served for more than 12 years in the Tennessee General Assembly in both the House and Senate. As chair of the Senate Education Committee and later as Senate Speaker Pro Tempore, Woodson was a key leader in efforts to identify and support effective teaching, overhaul Tennessee's K-12 education funding formula, raise academic standards for Tennessee students, turn around low-performing schools, and expand high-quality public charter schools. In addition, she was a key leader in Tennessee's work to transform public higher education by aligning Tennessee's postsecondary system and the state's economic goals through changes in academic, fiscal, and administrative policies. As a citizen legislator, Woodson also served as general counsel for an East Tennessee manufacturing firm.

BILL & MELINDA GATES *foundation*

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people – especially those with the fewest resources – have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the Foundation is led by CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.



CHARLES AND LYNN
SCHUSTERMAN
FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation (Schusterman) is a global organization that seeks to ignite the passion and unleash the power in young people to create positive change for themselves, the Jewish community and the broader world.

The Foundation pursues its mission by working collaboratively with others to support and operate high-quality education, identity development, leadership training and service programs designed to help young people cultivate their growth as individuals and as leaders.



The State Farm Companies Foundation was established in 1963 as an independent private foundation. The Foundation is primarily committed to education, helping to raise the level of student achievement in our elementary and secondary schools, as well as supporting key higher education initiatives.



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