



March 2018

## **THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT: FUTURE READY PA INDEX**

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for four years and makes significant changes to the previous iteration of the law. One element of the law that remains the same, however, is the requirement to issue annual state, district, and school report cards that provide clear information to the public about the effectiveness of all public schools in the state.<sup>1</sup> To meet this requirement, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has developed the Future Ready PA Index (Index) as the new, public-facing school report card for all public schools in the Commonwealth.

The Index will capture all measures required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for federal accountability purposes - academic achievement, academic growth, high school graduation rate, efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism, college and career readiness, and information on English learner proficiency. In addition, the Index will update the public about a broader, more comprehensive array of school-level indicators that include the following:

- Indicators of student success after graduation including postsecondary transition
- Indicators of student access to and completion of advanced course offerings such as AP, IB, college credit, and CTE programs of study
- Indicators of career pathways/quality, industry recognized credentials
- Optional data from locally-selected reading assessments (Grade 3) and math assessments (Grade 7)
- School level budget reporting of per-pupil expenditures – personnel and non-personnel
- Equitable access to effective educator disaggregated by high and low-poverty schools, including measures of
  - inexperienced teachers, principals, and other school leaders
  - teachers teaching with emergency or provisional credentials
  - teachers who are not teaching in the subject or field for which the teacher is certified or licensed.

PDE believes that the new Index is designed to emphasize student growth measures more than proficiency. It also will eliminate the unequal weighting of content areas from previous

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the state and local report card requirements in ESSA, see PSEA's Advisory, [The Every Student Succeeds Act: State and Local Education Agency Report Card Requirements](#).

school report cards and recognize schools not only for student proficiency but also for reducing the percent of students scoring at the Below Basic level.

The Index will not issue summative scores for each school or district but will instead display data through a dashboard. This means that stakeholders will be able to compare school and district achievement to on individual data elements to state averages and, where applicable, to state long-term and interim goals. The format will discourage ranking schools against each other. The Index will be available to the public in the 2018-19 school year based on 2017-18 data.<sup>2</sup>

### **For More Information**

For more information about the Future Ready PA Index, see [PDE's Future Ready PA Index webpage](#). For specific information about the Future Ready PA Index, PSEA members may contact Brad Hull ([bhull@psea.org](mailto:bhull@psea.org)). PSEA members with questions about the Future Ready Index in their school or district should contact their UniServ Representative.



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<sup>2</sup> Although the Future Ready PA Index is the Commonwealth's new school report card, the School Performance Profile will remain unchanged and will continue to be used in the building-level data component of Pennsylvania's educator evaluation system.