Supporting the Whole Child: Opportunities in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

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About Healthy Schools Campaign
Overview: The Shifting Landscape

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Chronic Absenteeism
- School Health Services
Every Student Succeeds Act
ESSA: A New Hope

• The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is our national education law

• ESEA was last reauthorized in 2001 as the No Child Left Behind Act

• Anticipated to be fully operational in school year 2017-2018
Can we use ESSA to Address Trauma in Schools?

- Will drive funding to states and school districts with high percentages of low-income children
- Funding can be used to support the conditions of learning, including school health
- Separate funding available for professional development to support school staff with behavioral health training
Accountability and the Non-Academic Indicator

• Under ESSA, school accountability systems could radically change with a new metric to rank schools: a “measure of school quality” or success
What’s Measured Is What Matters

• We need your feedback!
• Some considerations:
  • Can the indicator be reliably measured (data collected)?
  • Do the chosen metrics demonstrate progress over time (vs yes/no indicators)?
  • Will this increase student testing?
  • What matters to student success? What should be measured?
Indicator Brainstorm

Examples

- Social and emotional learning
- PE hours per week
- Chronic absenteeism
- Measures of school climate (e.g. bullying)
- Teacher engagement
- Access to AP classes
- School nurse on site
- Post-secondary readiness
- Student engagement
- Discipline data
The Illinois Report Card

• ESSA requires that all states publish a report card
• Two new key measures related to trauma are required by law in most states: chronic absenteeism and safety
Chronic Absenteeism
Chronic Absenteeism (CA)

- CA includes excused and unexcused absences
- CA can be strong indicator of student health services and how a school is addressing trauma
- Potentially strong non-academic indicator
- IL is making progress on defining and tracking CA through the Illinois Attendance Commission
Changes to School Health Services!
Conclusion & Next Steps

• The Illinois State Board of Education’s decision on how to implement ESSA could determine the future of trauma-sensitive schools in Illinois.

• We can’t afford to miss out! Stay updated and get involved with Healthy Schools Campaign.
Thank you!

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