The 2017-2018 school year will serve as another year of transition to our new accountability, reporting, school improvement and recognition system under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). You will see some changes slowly start to take effect this year, and we want to make the transition as smooth as possible. Below, we’ve outlined some of what to expect over the next several months related to reporting of data and supports for schools and districts. For questions, please contact mde.essa@state.mn.us.

► Reporting
The Minnesota Department of Education will report minimal data in the areas of our ESSA accountability system in this transition year. This will allow us to make all ESSA changes at once in the 2018-2019 school year. Multiple Measurements Rating (MMR), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) will not be computed and released. AYP proficiency data will be released as part of the World’s Best Workforce data profiles, just as it has been in the past. The following data will be released:

• Math, Reading and Science Test Results
  • Publicly release school and district percent proficient on July 27, 2017.

• English learner/ACCESS
  • Publicly release school and district percent proficient on July 27, 2017.
   » All 2016 and 2017 scores and reports will reflect ACCESS 2.0.

• Graduation Rates
  • Released 2016 graduation rates on February 23, 2017.

• World’s Best Workforce data profiles
  • Includes third grade reading scores, eighth grade math scores, teacher equity data, achievement gap data and graduation rates.

► Supporting Schools and Districts
1. All current Priority and Focus schools will continue to receive support from Regional Centers of Excellence in 2017-2018 (no schools will exit).
   • School designations will not be on the Minnesota Report Card.
   • Title I 20 percent set-aside still required to support school improvement plans.
   • Priority and Focus schools are not required to notify parents about the school’s status. MDE will provide a letter to all districts in the state regarding the transition to ESSA for distribution to parents.

2. No schools will be designated in 2017-2018 as Reward, Celebration Eligible or Continuous Improvement.

3. Regional Centers of Excellence will offer supports to districts and charters with one or more high schools with a 2016 four-year graduation rate below 67 percent. This includes schools with graduation rates below 67 percent for all students as well as any one student group.

4. Districts and charters not making progress towards state World’s Best Workforce goals will be identified for support for the 2017-2018 school year. Districts and charters that are eligible for support are those that are consistently identified as the lowest-performing in the state based on third grade reading scores, eighth grade math scores, achievement gaps and graduation rates.