

AN ANALYSIS OF CONNECTICUT'S ESSA PLAN


This dashboard analyzes Connecticut's plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifically its commitment to equity and excellence and its compliance with the law. This analysis is not all-encompassing but rather focuses on the indicators most essential for advancing equitable educational opportunities for all students. Connecticut submitted its plan on April 21, 2017, and the U.S. Department of Education approved it on August 4, 2017. Full text is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/ctconsostateplan.pdf>. View ESSA equity dashboards for other states at www.all4ed.org/essa.

ESSA EQUITY DASHBOARD


CONNECTICUT

LONG-TERM GOALS


Academic Achievement

 Approximately 70% of students proficient in reading and math by 2030

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

 Same long-term goals for each subgroup


4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

 94% of students graduating by 2029

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate


 Same graduation rate goal for 4- and 6-year cohort rates

English Language Proficiency


 Accounts for students' initial grade and proficiency level in setting student goals with maximum of 5 years to attain proficiency

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of "Consistently Underperforming" Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

 Definition identifies any subgroup performing in bottom 1% of schools on all 13 indicators in accountability system in each of the prior 3 years

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

 6-year graduation rate below 70%

★ BONUS

Although the same as the 4-year rate, a goal of 94% still is ambitious for the 6-year rate

🚀 NOTE


State also will identify "focus" schools, including the bottom 10% of schools based on lowest growth of high-needs super-subgroup or 6-year graduation rate of high-needs group below 70%

ACCOUNTABILITY


Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

 Uses super-subgroup in addition to disaggregated subgroups in accountability index and for identifying schools for support


N-Size

 20 students


School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

 Science achievement, chronic absenteeism, participation rate, and physical fitness for all schools; 9th-grade on track for middle and high schools; college- and career-readiness course work and exams, postsecondary entrance, and arts access for high schools


High School Graduation Rate

 4- and 6-year graduation rates each receive at least 6.5% weight


Weighting of Academic Indicators

 93.1% weight or higher for all grades

Testing Participation Rates

 No credit for untested students; schools that do not meet 95% participation for all students or the high-needs subgroup, but otherwise would receive a level 1 or 2 rating (the top ratings out of 5), will drop one level and be excluded from recognition as a School of Distinction

Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance

 Super-subgroup performance accounts for 36–42% of school rating index

🚀 NOTE

Under the law, states can choose to use a graduation rate higher than 67% (4-year rate) to identify schools for support

🚀 NOTE

Inconclusive evidence for 2 SQSS measures (physical fitness and arts access)

Note: Some indicators do not apply to some states and do not appear in the analysis included on the front of this document. The Alliance for Excellent Education set the parameters associated with the green, yellow, and red designations.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Academic Achievement

- **Green:** 75% or more of all students proficient on statewide assessments by 2030 or equivalently rigorous goal
- **Yellow:** 60–74.9% of all students proficient by 2030 or 75% or more proficient by 2031–39 or equivalently rigorous goal
- **Red:** Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Academic Achievement by Student Subgroup

- **Green:** Same long-term goals for each subgroup or similarly ambitious commitment to closing achievement gaps
- **Yellow:** Less ambitious goals but requires higher rates of growth from lower-performing subgroups
- **Red:** Same or similar rates of academic growth for all subgroups

4-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- **Green:** 90% or more of students graduating by 2030
- **Yellow:** 85–89.9% of students graduating by 2030 or 90% or more graduating by 2031–39
- **Red:** Less rigorous goals and/or longer timeline than 2040

Extended-Year Cohort High School Graduation Rate

- **Green:** At least 3 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal or 1 percentage point higher if 4-year cohort rate goal is at least 90%
- **Yellow:** 1–2 percentage points higher than 4-year cohort rate goal
- **Red:** Goals are the same or state does not set goals for each cohort rate

English Language Proficiency

- **Green:** Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level in setting student targets with maximum timeline of no more than 6 years to achieve proficiency
- **Yellow:** Accounts for initial age/grade or proficiency level with maximum timeline of 7 years to achieve proficiency
- **Red:** Does not account for initial age/grade or proficiency level and/or sets maximum timeline of 8 or more years to achieve proficiency

ACCOUNTABILITY

Disaggregation of Student Subgroups

- **Green:** State does not use super-subgroup or uses it only in addition to disaggregated subgroups for identifying schools for targeted support and improvement (TSI)
- **Red:** State uses super-subgroups instead of required subgroups for identifying schools for TSI

N-Size

- **Green:** N-size for accountability of 10 or fewer students
- **Yellow:** N-size for accountability of 11–25 students
- **Red:** N-size for accountability of 26 or more students

School Quality and Student Success (SQSS) Indicator

- **Green:** Research-based statewide SQSS measures that can be disaggregated by student subgroup
- **Yellow:** Inconclusive research to support SQSS measures or significant SQSS measures are in development but will be statewide and capable of disaggregation by student subgroup
- **Red:** SQSS measures lack research and/or are not statewide or capable of disaggregation by student subgroup

High School Graduation Rate Indicator

- **Green:** Exclusively uses, or gives more weight to, 4-year cohort graduation rate
- **Yellow:** Uses 4- and extended-year cohort graduation rates and weights 4-year rate equally or less than other rates
- **Red:** Does not use 4-year cohort graduation rate or uses another unlawful graduation rate calculation

Weighting of Academic Indicators

- **Green:** 75% or more weight on academic indicators including measures based on state tests, college and career readiness, and chronic absenteeism
- **Yellow:** 50–74% weight on academic indicators
- **Red:** Less than 50% weight on academic indicators

Testing Participation Rates

- **Green:** No credit for untested students or similarly rigorous consequences
- **Yellow:** Less rigorous consequences that have limited implications for accountability
- **Red:** Does not specify consequences for untested students

Inclusion of Student Subgroup Performance in School Ratings

- **Green:** Includes all ESSA subgroups in all school ratings or uses a decision rule to ensure ratings reflect ESSA student subgroups
- **Yellow:** Includes subgroups in all school ratings but does not include all ESSA subgroups or may obscure subgroup performance on school dashboards
- **Red:** Does not include all ESSA subgroups in all school ratings

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Definition of “Consistently Underperforming” Used to Identify Schools for Targeted Support

- **Green:** Definition is meaningfully different from “additional targeted support” (ATS) and triggers identification based on low performance on a *subset* of indicators
- **Yellow:** Definition is meaningfully different from ATS and triggers identification based on low performance across *all* indicators
- **Red:** Definition is not meaningfully different from, or is narrower than, ATS or does not comply with ESSA

High School Graduation Rate Used to Identify Schools for Comprehensive Support

- **Green:** Uses 4-year cohort graduation rate exclusively
- **Yellow:** Uses 5-year cohort graduation rate
- **Red:** Uses 6-year (or longer) cohort graduation rate