



# **Every Student Succeeds Act: Planning & Implementation in PA**

Adam Schott & Samantha Koch  
PA Department of Education  
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## ▶ Three Key Takeaways

- 1 ESSA reauthorizes ESEA and continues its legacy as a **civil rights law**.
- 2 This is a **watershed moment** in education policy – significant shift in flexibility, responsibility, and decision-making from federal to state and local levels.
- 3 **We want to hear what you think.**

# ▶ Today's Discussion

- ESSA 101
- ESSA Planning and Implementation in PA
- Opportunities for Parent, Family & Community Engagement in ESSA
- Looking Ahead
- Questions

## ▶ Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

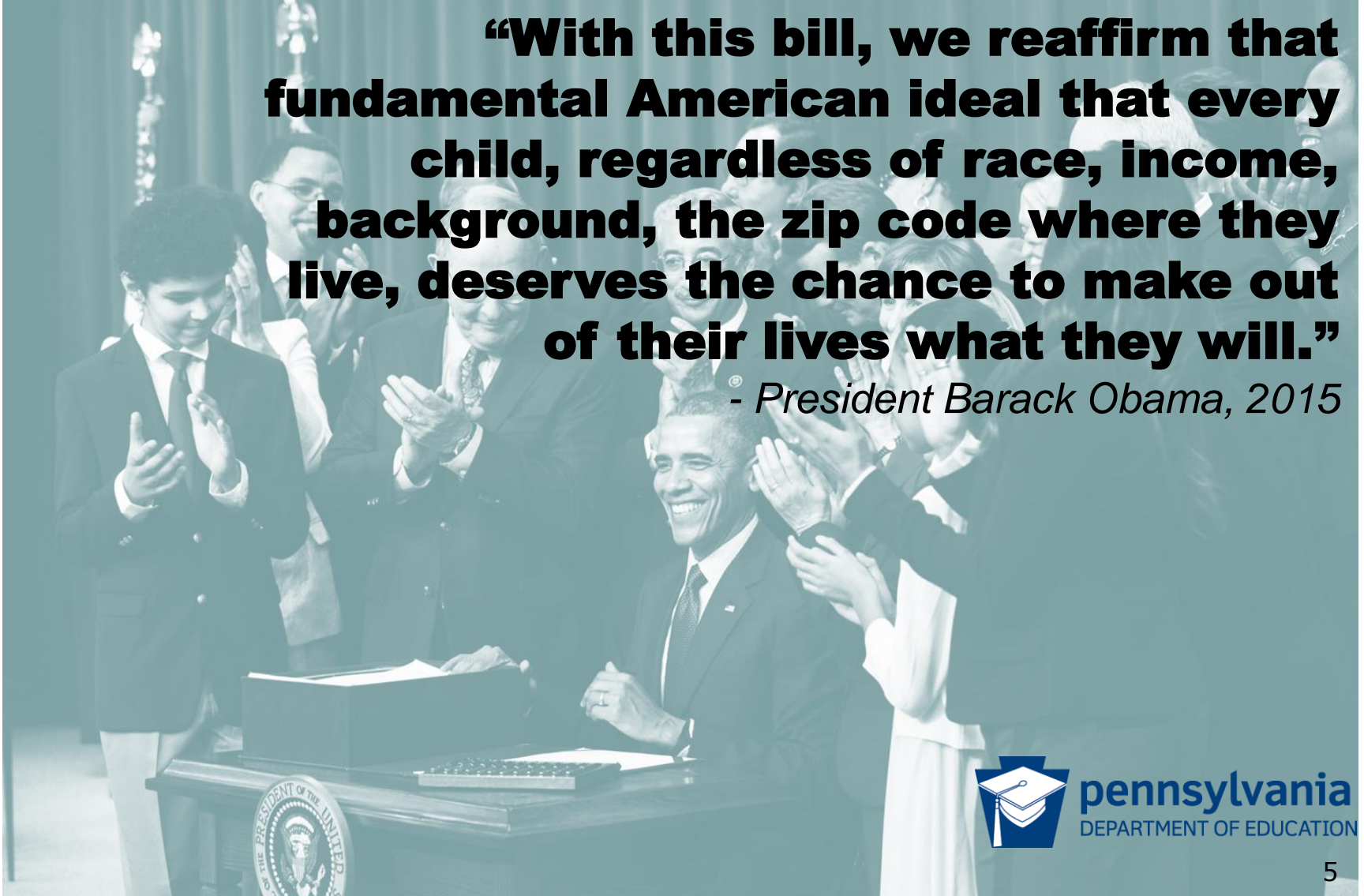
**“From our very beginnings as a nation, we have felt a fierce commitment to the ideal of education for everyone... By passing this bill, we bridge the gap between helplessness and hope for more than five million educationally deprived children.”**

*- President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965*

## ▶ Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

**“With this bill, we reaffirm that fundamental American ideal that every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live, deserves the chance to make out of their lives what they will.”**

*- President Barack Obama, 2015*



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# ▶ No Child Left Behind vs. ESSA

- **What hasn't changed:**
  - Standards (“challenging”)
  - Annual assessments
  - Accountability and transparency (data reporting)
  - Requirements to improve low-performing schools
  - Disaggregation by race, low-income, English learners, students with disabilities

# ▶ No Child Left Behind vs. ESSA

- **What has changed:**
  - Opportunity and responsibility for states
    - Options for administering statewide assessments
    - Establishing new, more holistic accountability indicators for measuring school performance
    - Identifying evidence-based strategies for school improvement and turnaround based on local needs
    - Exploring partnerships to better align systems between schools and communities

# ESSA Focus Areas & Other Themes



## **PDE Vision:**

Pennsylvania learners will be prepared for meaningful engagement in postsecondary education; in workforce training; in career pathways; and to be responsible, involved citizens.

## **Other Underlying Themes:**

- **Equity** (At-Risk/Vulnerable Students)
- **PreK-12+ Continuum**
- **College & Career Readiness**
- **Data & Transparency**



# Phases of Stakeholder Engagement in PA

- 1 • **Phase One:** Four work groups (educators and practitioners).
  - PA’s ESSA work groups are charged with exploring four areas that provide new flexibility; 3-5 recommendations each.
  - **March - October 2016**
  
- 2 • **Phase Two:** Broad, robust stakeholder engagement through regional meetings during development of PA’s State Plan.
  - Parent/family engagement workshops
  - **Fall 2016 - Spring/Summer 2017 (TBD)**

# ESSA Planning & Stakeholder Engagement



**USDE issues proposed rulemaking on Accountability, State Plans** (May 26, 2016)



**Stakeholder Sessions**  
(April 28)



**Work Group Meeting #1**  
(June 14)



**Work Group Meeting #2**  
(August 30)



**Stakeholder Session & Report Release**  
(October 18)



**Phase 2 of Stakeholder Engagement**  
(Fall 2016-  
Spring/  
Summer 2017)



**USDE issues proposed rulemaking on Assessments**  
(July 6, 2016)



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# ▶ What We're Hearing So Far...



## ➤ Transitioning to ESSA: Broad Themes

- One-off Initiatives → **Integrated & Continuous**
- “Scientific” → **“Evidence-based”**
- Separate Programs → **Aligned Resources**
- Silos → **Coordinated Systems**
  - Education (early childhood, K-12, postsecondary), parents and families, and communities

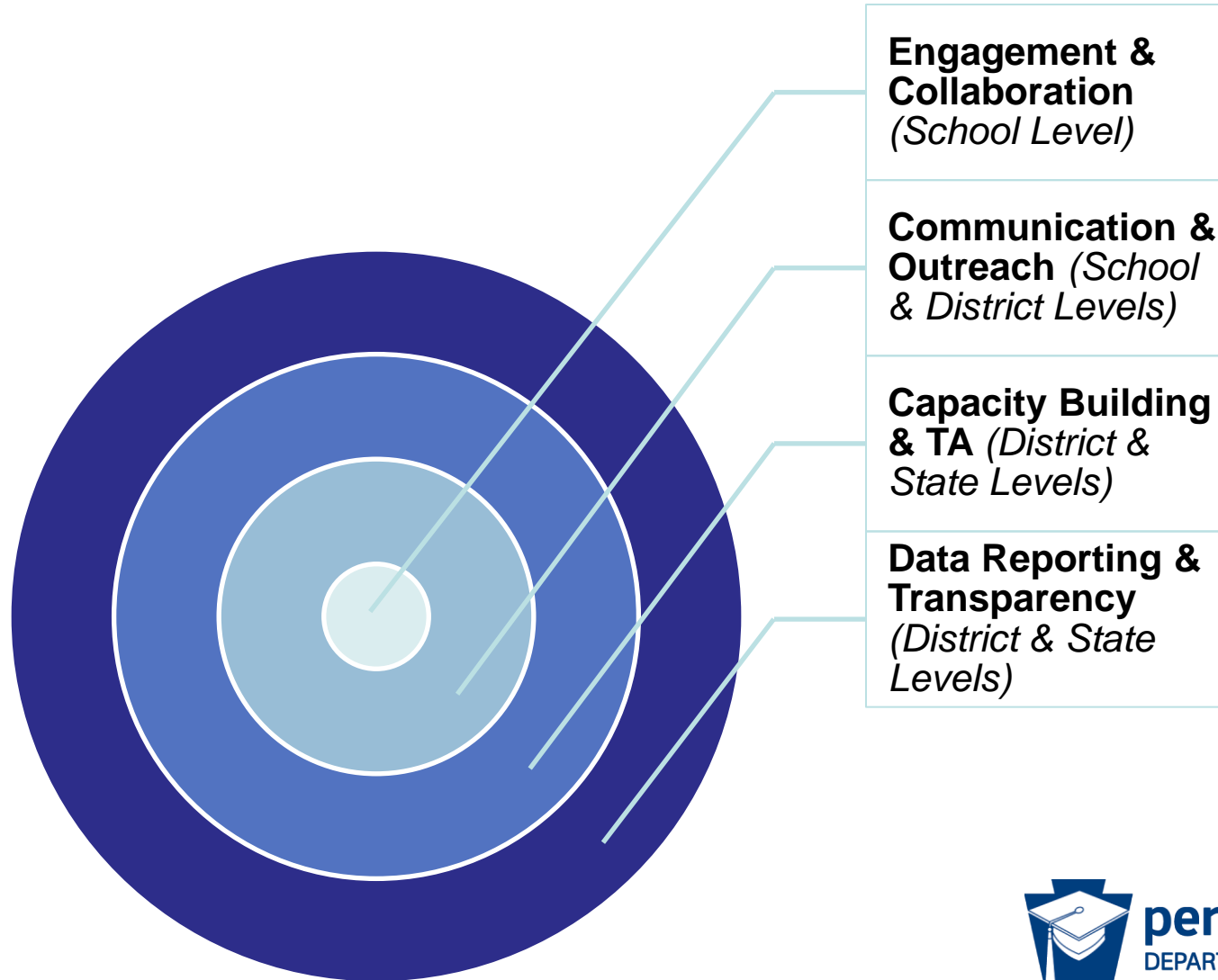
## ▶ Bringing Schools & Families Together

- **Breaking Down Silos:** Family engagement at home and school is critical for student success.
- **Goal:** Parent/family engagement critical first step in ensuring equity of opportunity for students.
- **Challenge:** Ensuring disadvantaged parent/family voices are heard.

## Challenges

- “Random acts of engagement”
  - Or, “The Case of the Poorly Attended Parent Night”
  - One-way communications rather than meaningful dialogue and equal partnership
- Low-income, limited-English proficient, and parents of color face multiple barriers to engagement.
  - Often lack social capital, understanding of the school system

# Parent & Family Engagement - Themes



## ▶ “Parent & Family Engagement” in ESSA

- ESSA maintains past requirements, creates new opportunities
- **Language Shift:** “Parental involvement” (NCLB) → “parent and family engagement” (ESSA)
- “Parent” / “family” appear 300+ times



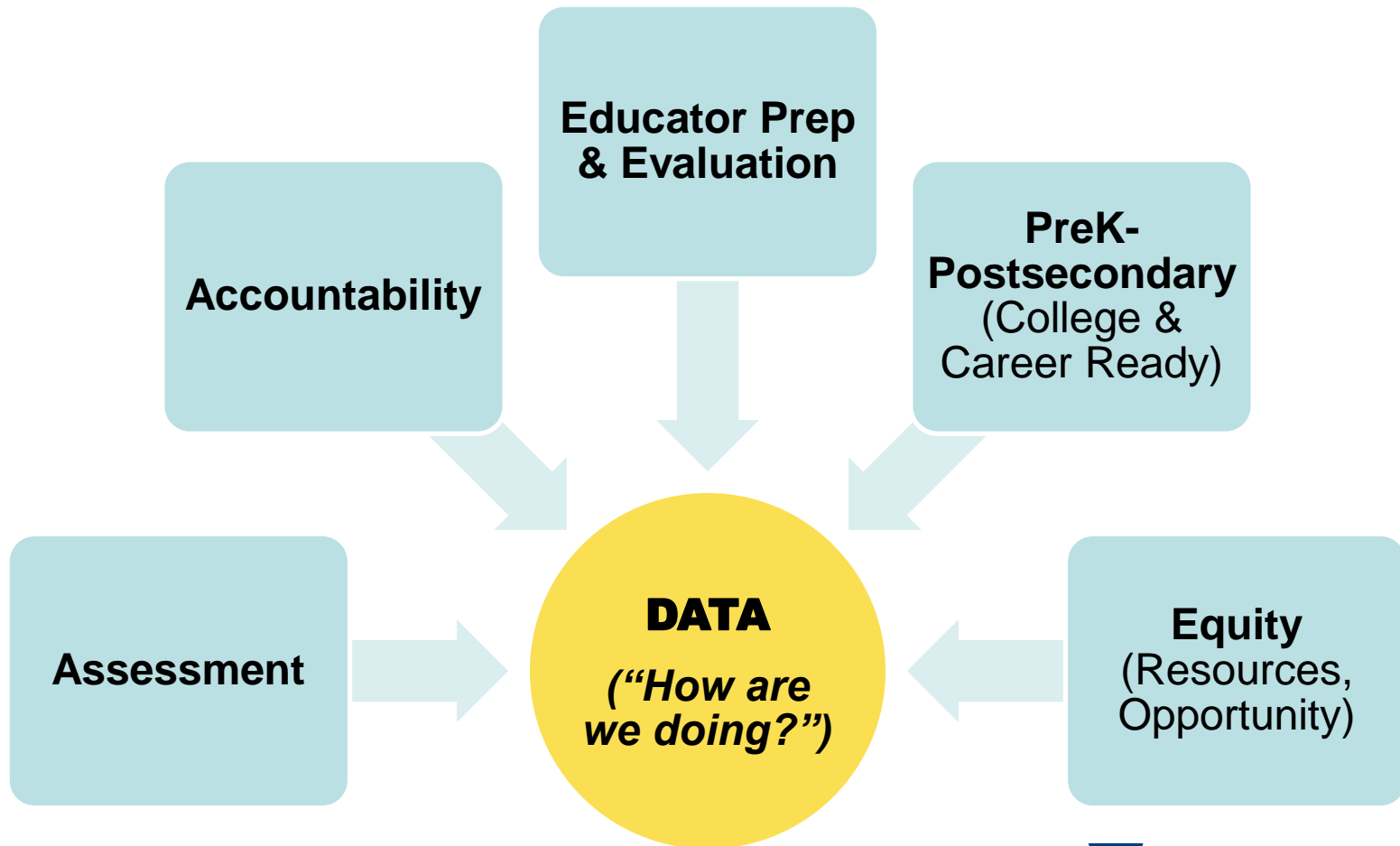
## ▶ Parents & Families as Key Stakeholders

- **Requires timely and meaningful engagement of stakeholders**, including parents and families
  - State and local levels
- **Ongoing Process:** Before, during, and after development of State and LEA Plans
  - USDE proposed rulemaking (May 2016)
  - Guidance letter for stakeholder engagement (June 2016)

# ➤ So, What's New?

Section	Highlights
<b>Title I, Part A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Funding:</b> Minimum one percent set-aside requirement for parent/family engagement activities; school districts must distribute at least 90 percent of funds to schools, prioritizing those with the highest need (<i>previously 95 percent</i>)</li><li>• <b>Policies:</b> Schools/districts must have written family engagement plans</li></ul>
<b>Title II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New funding formula for states</li><li>• Expanded professional development</li></ul>
<b>Title III</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accountability for English learners moves from Title III to Title I</li></ul>
<b>Title IV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants</li><li>• 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers</li><li>• Statewide Family Engagement Centers (previously <a href="#">Parent Information Resource Centers</a>); competitive grants</li></ul>

# Tracking Progress: Data & Transparency



# ➤ New Requirements: Annual Report Cards

**Disaggregated & cross-tabulated by subgroups**  
*(new – foster, homeless, military connected)*

**Civil Rights Data Collection (OCR)**

School quality & climate

PreK enrollment

Accelerated coursework

**Postsecondary enrollment**

Immediately following high school graduation (where available)

**Educator qualifications**

Inexperienced, ineffective, out-of-field

Disaggregated by high- and low-poverty schools

**Per-pupil expenses**

Personnel costs

Non-personnel costs

School and district level



## ▶ Concise, Easy to Understand & Accessible

- **State Report Cards must be:**
  - Concise
  - Easy-to-understand, uniform format developed in consultation with parents, and (where practicable) translated
  - Cross-tabulated by subgroup
    - *Ex: Students with disabilities who are in foster care*
  - Widely accessible to public (website)

## ▶ Looking Ahead

- Continued stakeholder engagement
  - Parent and family engagement (fall/winter 2017)
- Release of work groups' framework recommendations
  - October 18, 2016 report release event – Harrisburg, PA & livestreamed
- Homeless/foster/juvenile justice/at-risk youth
  - Collaboration with DHS – summer/fall 2016
- PDE submits ESSA State Plan
  - Spring or summer 2017

# ▶ ESSA & Parent/Family Engagement Links

- [Quick Review of the Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\): What's in it for Parents?](#) National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
- [Parent and Family Engagement Provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act](#), The Leadership Conference Education Fund
- [USDE Guidance Letter on ESSA Stakeholder Engagement](#), June 23, 2016.
- [Education Week K12 Parents & Public blog](#) and [@ParentAndPublic](#) Twitter account
- PDE, [Family Engagement](#) webpage

# ESSA Resources


- PDE's [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) resource page

The screenshot displays the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the PA.GOV logo and menu items: EARLY LEARNING, K-12, POSTSECONDARY & ADULT, TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS, and DATA & STATISTICS. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the placeholder text "Enter Search Term" and a magnifying glass icon. On the left side, there is a logo for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, featuring a graduation cap and the text "pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" and "TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR | PEDRO A. RIVERA, SECRETARY". On the right side, there is a vertical menu with the following items: PSSA INFORMATION, EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT, and EDUCATION BUDGET. The main content area shows the breadcrumb "PDE > Every Student Succeeds Act" and the title "EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT". To the right of the title, it says "STAKEHOLDER SESSION 1 APRIL 28, 2016". Below the title, there is a "Background" section with a paragraph of text: "On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Developed and passed with strong, bipartisan agreement, ESSA replaces the No Child Left Behind Act and provides significant flexibility around federal education policy by shifting authority back to states and communities." Below this paragraph, it says "PDE is committed to collaborating with stakeholders – including educators, policymakers, and community". To the right of the background section, there are three links: "Accountability Breakout Session Discussion Notes (PDF)", "Assessment Breakout Session Discussion Notes (PDF)", and "Educator Certification Breakout Session Discussion Notes (PDF)".



## Questions?

- Twitter: #ESSApa / #ThisIsYourPlan
- Contact: [RA-edESSA@pa.gov](mailto:RA-edESSA@pa.gov)



The mission of the department is to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens.

The department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether children or adults.