

## Honoring input from parents, students, teachers and paraprofessionals

ESSA is built on the principle of stakeholder engagement. Both state and local plans are to be developed with timely and meaningful consultation with enumerated stakeholders.

True stakeholder engagement and meaningful consultation involves talking with stakeholders about both the successes and problems in the current system, setting a vision for what we would like to see for our children, then working together to find common ground for how to make the vision a reality.

Stakeholders bring varied perspectives to the table that should be honored and considered when making decisions. Parents know the struggles their children experience, their needs and hopes for the future. Teachers have deep pedagogical and content knowledge and can give professional input on both the strategies needed and how to implement them. Paraprofessionals have a firsthand view of the daily challenges our students face and can bring a perspective to the discussion that is often missing. Students, of course, are the ones who feel the impact of the decisions that are made so their voices cannot be left out of discussions.

See additional information on engaging stakeholders in this report from the Council of Chief State School Officers.  
<http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2016/ESSA/CCSSO%20Stakeholder%20Engagement%20Guide%20FINAL.pdf>

Resources from the Alliance for Excellent Education.

[http://all4ed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NAACP\\_ESSA-Primer-Parent-and-Community-Engagement.pdf](http://all4ed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NAACP_ESSA-Primer-Parent-and-Community-Engagement.pdf)

Important questions stakeholder should ask state/district decision makers:

- How and when will I receive communications about how I can be involved in developing a state plan or a district plan?
- How is the state/district addressing the non-academic needs that children are bringing to the classroom?
- How does the state/district plan create a learning environment that excites children about learning?
- How does the state/district plan attract and retain quality teachers?
- How does the state/district plan help children see a pathway to the future instead of just seeing the test as the end product of learning?
- How will the state/district continue engaging stakeholders beyond the development of the plan?

[www.ESSAOpportunity.org](http://www.ESSAOpportunity.org)