



Spring 2016

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Featured Topic – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Overview

The [U.S. Department of Education Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), signed by President Obama last December, is a revision and reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

The [ESSA law](#) now specifies that districts may use Title I funds to identify and serve gifted and talented students. The ESSA also allows states to use computer adaptive assessments as a format for state assessments, used for accountability purposes, and authorizes grant funding to states to develop such assessments. School districts can also use Title II professional development funds to provide teacher training on gifted education instructional practices.



The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) has compiled several documents to assist educators with reviewing ESSA changes:

- [Main ESSA page](#)
- [ESSA Gifted Education Provisions](#) (PDF)
- [ESSA Advocacy Q&A](#) (PDF)

ESSA - State Requirements Impacting Gifted Students

1. States must include student achievement data at each achievement level that is disaggregated by student subgroup (e.g., low-income, race, English learners, gender, and students with disabilities). In the past, states provided detailed information for students performing at the proficient level and below. With ESSA implementation, states will have to include information on students achieving at the advanced level.
2. When applying for Title II professional development funds, states must include information about how they plan to improve the skills of teachers and other school leaders enabling them

to identify gifted and talented students, and provide instruction based on the students' needs.

ESSA - District Requirements Impacting Gifted Students

1. Districts, called "local education agencies" in ESSA, must collect and report student achievement data at each achievement level.
2. Districts that receive Title II professional development funds must use the money to address the learning needs of all students. ESSA specifically states that "all students" includes gifted and talented students.

ESSA - Professional Development Focused on Gifted Students

In the ESSA, professional development opportunities refer to: providing training to support the identification of students who are gifted and talented, including high-ability students who have not been formally identified for gifted education services, and implementing instructional practices that support the education of such students, such as:

- early entrance to kindergarten
- enrichment, acceleration and curriculum compacting activities
- dual or concurrent enrollment programs in secondary school and postsecondary education



ESSA - Implementation Timeline

[Transitioning to the Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) is planned for the 2016-2017 school year. Applications for Title I and other grants begin July 1, 2016; other federal grant programs will go into effect in October 2016. State accountability plans go into effect in the 2017-2018 school year.

Professional Development Courses, Conferences and Careers

Courses

Center for Excellence in Education's Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP)

The Center for Excellence in Education's [Teacher Enrichment Program \(TEP\)](#) helps to assure a future talented and diverse U.S. workforce in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). *All TEP resources and professional development events are free.* TEP provides opportunities for rural and urban middle and high school teachers to connect with leading experts from industry and academia to explore cutting-edge research and make meaningful professional links with direct benefits for them and their students. TEP is currently available in California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.



GERRIC's Professional Development Modules are back online!

These free [Professional Development Modules](#) from the University of New South Wales-Australia (UNSW) were developed by the UNSW GERRIC School of Education for teachers who want to make their classrooms exciting and stimulating places for students with gifts and talents.

University of Nevada, Reno

The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) is offering an [endorsement in gifted education](#) during summer session. The College of Education at UNR offers a certificate program in Gifted and Talented Education that meets licensure requirements for Nevada teachers. Davidson Academy instructor Jessica Rafferty will teach two of this summer's four online courses: EDSP 681: Characteristics and Needs of Gifted and Talented Students (3 credits); EDSP 683: Methodology and Strategies for Teaching Gifted and Talented Students (3 credits); EDSP 682: Assessment of Gifted and Talented Students (3 credits); and EDSP 684: Elementary and Secondary Curriculum in Gifted Education (3 credits). Contact Dr. Bob Ives at rives@unr.edu for more information.

Western Kentucky University - Gifted and Talented Endorsement

This [gifted and talented endorsement](#) requires four classes, three of which are offered online. The classes are GTE 536, GTE 537, PSY 432G and GTE 538 (Practicum). GTE 538 is a two-week practicum and is not offered online. Contact gifted@wku.edu for more information.

Conferences

Confratute 2016 - July 10-15, 2016

A one-week summer conference located at the University of Connecticut, [Confratute](#) is a combined **CONF**erence, and an insti**TUTE** with a lot of **FRAT**ernity in between. Confratute is geared toward providing educators with research-based practical strategies for engagement and enrichment learning for all students, as well as meeting the needs of gifted and talented students.



SENG Annual Conference - July 22-24, 2016

The [2016 SENG Annual Conference](#) in Colonial Williamsburg provides an opportunity to empower, support, and connect gifted individuals as well as teachers, parents, and counselors. The 2016 theme is *GIFTED: Our Past and Our Future*.

Conference on Academic Acceleration - July 24-26, 2016

The Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa is offering a [conference focused on academic acceleration](#) for gifted education teachers, administrators, and school counselors. Parents are also welcome to attend. The goal is to present attendees with practical information about acceleration, using existing research and tools to help make data-driven decisions.

NAGC 63rd Annual Convention - November 3-6, 2016

[NAGC's annual convention](#) will be held in Walt Disney World® Resort in Florida this November. More than 2,500 dedicated educators, parents, researchers, administrators, policymakers, and advocates from around the world are planning to attend to support the needs of high-potential and high-ability children.

Careers

NAGC Career Center

[The NAGC Career Center](#) is free to all job seekers and provides educators with access to the best employers and jobs in gifted education. Employers can post jobs for a small fee, compared to other hiring websites.

Resources

Grants

Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants

[The Youth Literacy Grants](#) are offered to schools, libraries and non-profits to help struggling readers improve and attain proficiency. These grants support a range of programs, including new literacy projects, as well as funding for new technology and literacy materials. The maximum grant amount is \$4,000. Check their website for deadline information.



Project Learning Tree Environmental Education Grant

[Project Learning Tree](#) offers grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that connect classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2016.

Toshiba America Foundation

Kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers apply online for a \$1,000 [Toshiba America Foundation grant](#) to help bring an innovative hands-on project into classroom. Grant applications are due each year on October 1st. Toshiba America foundation also provides grants to six to 12 teachers who are looking to make math and science engaging for their students. Grant requests for \$5,000 or less are accepted on a rolling basis, throughout the calendar year. Grant requests for \$5,000 or more are accepted and reviewed twice a year: August 1 and February 1.

Travel Grants for Educators

- [8 Travel Grants and Fellowships for Educators](#) (Edutopia)
- [35 Travel Grants and Other Travel Opportunities for Teachers and Education Professionals](#) (Travel Beyond Excuse)

Curriculum Resources

- [Breaking Through!: Helping Girls Succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math](#) (Prufrock Press)
- [Curriculum Compacting: A Guide to Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction Through Enrichment and Acceleration](#) (Prufrock Press)
- [Tapping the Power of Personalized Learning: A Roadmap for School Leaders](#) (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development)

In the News

- [America's Report Card: We're still ignoring low-income high-achievers](#) (Thomas B. Fordham Institute)
- [Atlanta Gifted Academy a Refuge for High IQ Children](#) (Black Enterprise)
- [Twice Exceptional: The Sticky Road To GATE](#) (Huffington Post)
- [Why New York's 'Gifted And Talented' Admissions Test Is Not A Good Idea](#) (Parent Herald)
- [ESSA emphasizes transparency](#) (SmartBrief)
- [There's More to Class Participation Than Raising Hands](#) (Quiet Revolution)
- [Why Talented Black and Hispanic Students Can Go Undiscovered](#) (New York Times)

Davidson Programs

Educators Guild

All educators, and people interested in gifted education, are invited to join the [Educators Guild Discussion Group](#) on Facebook and contribute to the ongoing conversation about how to best serve the academic needs of our nation's brightest students.



Davidson Young Scholars

The [Davidson Young Scholars](#) program provides FREE services designed to nurture and support profoundly gifted young people and their families, including talent development and educational advocacy, an online community and annual get-togethers. Applications are due the first of each month. For more information, see the [How to Apply](#) and [Qualification Criteria](#) pages.

Closing Quote

*"The 'excellence gap,' then, is really two gaps.
First, it means not enough high-achievers to assure the nation's
long-term economic competitiveness, security, and cultural vitality.
Second, it means not nearly enough disadvantaged kids reaching that level,
suggesting not even a modicum of equal opportunity."*

*-- Chester E. Finn, Jr., Distinguished Senior Fellow and
President Emeritus of the [Thomas B. Fordham Institute](#)*

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The Davidson Institute for Talent Development

Supporting our nation's brightest young minds.

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