



NEWS RELEASE

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New federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) means more localized school governance

SAN JOSE, CA – President Obama’s signing this week of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), ushers in a new era of school governance that focuses less on federal involvement and more on local control. The Act, the next generation of No Child Left Behind, rebalances accountability oversight of public education between federal, state and individual school districts.

“This is a step forward in helping to increase the effectiveness of educators in carrying out their core mission of providing instruction,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry. “We are reviewing the Act and aligning the resources of the County Office of Education to be in the best position to support the 31 districts in the county.”

Some of the main revisions to the law include the repeal of Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, and replaces it with comprehensive, state-designed accountability systems. Among some of the highlights, the Act maintains important statewide assessments for students but allows greater flexibility beyond utilizing a single assessment tool. It also recognizes the need to reduce unnecessary testing and affirms state control of standards. While it also helps states to improve low performing schools and supports at-risk populations, it’s also designed to improve accountability for learning outcomes for all students.

“I believe that the increased flexibility and local control of this new law strengthens public education and supports *all* children in Santa Clara County, and aligns with our goal of improving student equity and access to high quality education,” said Superintendent Gundry.

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