

Advocacy Checklist



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) invites you to the table and you need to make sure you are there.

States and local education agencies are charged with conducting “timely and meaningful consultation with... specialized instructional support personnel.”

We are asking you to step up on behalf of students, your profession and the SISP community. We know that it is not easy, but if you follow these three steps your involvement will make an impact.

1. INFORM

Get educated and talk about what a SISP is and how the new law will affect your school

- ◆ Speak at staff meetings, to principals, and with peer groups
- ◆ Find out when your PTA and local school boards meet and what they are discussing

2. FIND YOUR ALLIES

Identify key local contacts

- ◆ Contact and collaborate with other SISP
- ◆ Contact your council member, elected member in the state house and senate, and your governor’s office
- ◆ Tell your elected officials you want to participate in order to make a positive impact on all students in the district and the state, and ask who they suggest you should speak to

3. FOLLOW THROUGH

Find a way to be part of this conversation

- ◆ Contact the person your elected officials suggest
- ◆ Go and get on the agenda at a PTA, school board or town hall meeting
- ◆ Write a letter to the editor

How does the Every Student Succeeds Act change things?

- The law now uses the term, “specialized instructional support personnel,” defines the term, and includes the term more deliberately and strategically in the law.
- The ESSA elevates state and local plans. These plans outline how federal funds will be used locally to achieve broad educational goals with greater latitude given to local leaders.

Who are Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP)?

The term ‘specialized instructional support personnel’ refers to over a million professionals, including school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, school psychologists, social workers and school social workers; occupational and physical therapists; art, dance/movement, and music therapists; and, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists.

Get involved in the planning at your school, district or state level! Share the valuable information you know, as a SISP working in schools, about the range of ways we must engage students so they strive academically.

RESOURCES

LEARN MORE

[U.S. Department of Education, Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#)

Learn more about law.

[U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce](#)

See what the members of the Committee on Education and Workforce are doing about ESSA implementation.

[U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions](#)

See what the members of the Senate HELP Committee are doing about ESSA implementation.

[Education Commission of the States](#)

They have compiled a list of additional resources to help explain the changes associated with the passage of ESSA.

[National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

Background and additional resources about ESSA from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

[National School Board Association](#)

The National School Board Association has a library of Federal Advocacy Resources, including recent resources on ESSA.

FIND WHO TO CONTACT

[Council of Chief State School Officers](#)

Find out who the Chief State School Officer is for your state.

[National Governors Association, Contacts](#)

This page catalogs the individuals who perform major functions in a governor's office by state and by position.

[U.S. Department of Education, State Contacts](#)

Find the contact information for your state department of education, higher education agency, special education agency, adult education agency, etc.