

Comprehensive Needs Assessment Requirements Under the ESEA/ESSA Act of 2015

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act, includes requirements for comprehensive needs assessments for several programs authorized by the law. The chart below outlines the needs assessment requirements and information to be gathered as required by ESSA statute.

ESEA program	Comprehensive needs assessment requirements	ESEA section
Title I, Part A: Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plans	<p>"For each school identified by the state and in partnership with stakeholders (including principals and other school leaders, teachers, and parents)," a local educational agency must "develop and implement a comprehensive support and improvement plan for the school to improve student outcomes ... based on a school-level needs assessment."</p> <p>In addition, the comprehensive support and improvement plan "must be informed by statewide accountability indicators, identify resource inequities, include evidence-based interventions, and be approved by the school, district, and state."</p>	Section 1111(d)(1)(B)
Title I, Part A: Schoolwide Programs	The schoolwide plan must be "based on a comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school that takes into account information on the academic achievement of children in relation to the challenging state academic standards, particularly the needs of those children who are failing, or are at-risk of failing, to meet the challenging state academic standards and any other factors as determined by the local educational agency."	Section 1114(b)(6)
Title I, Part A: Targeted Assistance Schools	<p>A targeted assistance school can provide comprehensive services, including "health, nutrition, and other social services," as long as the services are not available for eligible children. To provide those services, the school must have "engaged in a comprehensive needs assessment and established a collaborative partnership with local service providers" and determine that "funds are not reasonably available from other public or private sources to provide such services."</p>	Section 1115(e)(2)

Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction	An LEA must develop systems of professional growth and improvement for staff based upon district and individual growth plans. Districts need to look at data to identify instructional/learning gaps, and it must examine areas for staff improvement based upon established evaluation criteria.	Section 2103(2)(E)
Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants	An LEA or consortium of LEAs that receives a Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant in excess of \$30,000 shall conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the LEA or consortium that is proposed to be served by the SSAEG funds. The assessment must examine needs to improve access to and expand opportunities for "a well-rounded education for all students; school conditions for student learning in order to create a healthy and safe school environment; and access to personalized learning experiences supported by technology and professional development for the effective use of data and technology."	Section 4106(d)