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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: September 23, 2016

SUBJECT: Every Student Succeeds Act Update

Contact Information

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DPS: 2016-147

Thank you to those districts and individuals that participated in the department's first public comment period on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in June and July. The comments are now posted, along with a summary report, at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/essa.stml>.

The commissioner submitted a [response](#) to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) [draft regulations on accountability and state plans](#) on August 1, 2016. There are additional USED draft regulations posted in the federal register on assessment and supplement not supplant funding provisions (Assessment: [Title I, Part A](#) and [Title I, Part B](#); [Title I-Supplement Not Supplant](#)).

We await finalization of these regulations and guidance on the timeline for implementation from USED. Here is what we know about the timeline at this point:

- Regulations should be finalized in the coming months.
- The state plan is tentatively due either in March or July 2017, per the proposed regulations.
- A draft of the state plan will be posted for at least 30 days prior to submission for additional public comment.
- Once submitted, plans will undergo a peer review process and USED has 120 days after submission to respond to the plan.
- Current proposed regulations require the use of 2016-2017 results in 2017-2018; however, the timeline does not support use of a new ESSA-compliant accountability system in 2017-2018, let alone 2016-2017. Based on when the plans are due and review time by USED, it appears that full implementation would occur at the earliest in 2018-2019.
- While it is too early to make definitive decisions on ESSA, these circumstances afford us ample time for discussion and input from stakeholders.

We will continue to focus on the process for getting input and preparing to submit the state plan for USED review. As we get a better picture of the rollout, we will provide information about additional public input opportunities.

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every Student Succeeds Act Update
September 23, 2016
Page Two

We look forward to learning together with our partners at the local and federal levels as we make decisions about and plan implementation of the opportunities afforded by ESSA.

HL/he

cc: School District Deputy Superintendents
School District Assistant Superintendents
School District Accountability Directors
School District Assessment Directors
School District Curriculum Directors
School District Federal Programs Directors

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS