

# New Mexico Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA

## Stakeholder Engagement Combined Member Focus Group Questions

### Challenging Academic Content Standards

**Lead in:** *One of the things that we hear from families and is reflected in what ESSA asks of states is to help students be academically prepared for college, career and life success. Let's talk about how you envision academic standards to ensure our students' success.*

1. Think for a moment about the knowledge, skills, and attitudes you have described as important. When today's kindergartners graduate from high school in 2028/29, which of these will be most important to their success?
  - a. Which of these are schools currently cultivating in students?
  - b. Please explain any disconnects you see between what our future graduates need and what they are currently learning in today's school system.

### High-Quality Student Academic Assessment

**Lead in:** *Annual assessments – PARCC in NM and 5 other states or something else – have become a standard way of testing whether or not students have learned what they need to know. Let's talk about what is valuable for you in terms assessing student learning.*

1. Part of a school's job is to make sure students successfully acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that they will need later in life. In your experience, how can teachers tell whether students you know have learned what they need to? **(Ask participants to describe them if they don't know what they are called.)**
2. Of all these different ways that teachers have assessed students' learning, which do you think have been most helpful?
3. What ideas do you have for alternative ways students can demonstrate mastery of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are important for success?

### Statewide Accountability System

**Lead in:** *During this section, we'll discuss teacher accountability and school accountability. I'll ask similar, but slightly different, questions for each.*

#### Teacher Accountability

1. As is true with most professionals, teachers are evaluated. Teacher evaluations include how well they are working with students in their classrooms and identifying areas where teachers are strong and where they might need some additional support. What kind of information is important in figuring out teachers' strengths and areas for improvement?
2. Reflecting on what you heard, what are your top 2 priorities?
3. What is the best way the district or others can support struggling teachers?

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## *School Accountability*

**Lead in:** *Remembering what you answered about knowledge, skills and attitudes kindergartners will need in the year 2028/2029, please discuss the following.*

1. Yes/No Poll – Do you feel like your school addresses what you feel is most important for your student’s success?
  - Those who answered yes: How does your school address the needed areas?
  - Those who answered no: How could your school improve in order to address the areas?
2. What do you wish was measured/could be counted at your school that currently is not measured/counted?
3. Reflecting on what you heard, what are your top 2 priorities for measurements?
4. What is the best way that the state and a district can support struggling schools?

## *Challenging Academic Content Standards (optional)*

Thinking about all your answers, what were the most important things you learned while you were in school that have supported your career and life success?