

# New Mexico Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA

## Stakeholder Engagement Questions - Educator Focus Group

### 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 important in life and the workforce. When today's kindergartners graduate from high school in 2028/29, which of these will be most important to their career and life 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 New Mexico 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. What types of assessments have been most valuable to you as a teacher? What types have been least valuable?
2. How often is it important to assess students' academic progress?
3. What are some alternative ways students can demonstrate mastery of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are important for success?
  - a. Do you know of any teachers or schools using any of these alternatives?

### 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 skills 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 students' success?
  - Those who answered yes: How does your school address these needed areas?
  - Those who answered no: How could your school improve in order to address the needed 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 measurement?
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?