

New Mexico Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA Stakeholder Engagement Questions - Student Focus Group

Challenging Academic Content Standards

Lead in: *One of the things we hear from families and is reflected in what ESSA asks of states is to support you and other students be academically prepared for college, career and life success. Let's talk about how you envision academic standards to ensure student's 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 developing 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 your 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 you have learned what you 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 your learning, which do you think has been most helpful?
3. What ideas do you have for alternative ways you and other 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. If you had to give your teachers a grade, what criteria would you grade them on?
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 your school addresses what is most important for your 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 these 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 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?