

School board member input is critical to Regional Advisory Committees at the U.S. Department of Education

School board members have an immediate opportunity to have a voice in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Between now and **August 18, 2016**, the U. S. Department of Education is collecting input from stakeholders on the educational and technical assistance needs of states and school districts. The input will form the basis of recommendations on how those needs would most effectively be met in light of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

SCHOOL BOARD INPUT IS VITAL TO THIS PROCESS.

As elected officials selected by and from the community, school boards are in the best position to advise on implementing the new law intended to restore state and local governance. The Department established 10 Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) to collect input and formulate recommendations to the Secretary to inform priorities for the Regional Educational Laboratories as part of the Comprehensive Assistance Centers program. Further information about the RACs and Comprehensive Assistance Centers is below.

4 EASY STEPS to have a voice in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act:

1. Go to the [RAC portal](https://rac.grads360.org/#program) <https://rac.grads360.org/#program>
2. Click [Needs Sensing Survey](#)



3. Identify yourself as a local school board member in question #2 by clicking “other” and typing in “local school board member.”
4. Share the survey widely with other school board members and public education advocates

The Questions: Here are the questions you are invited to answer:

1. In what state are you located?
2. What is your primary role (there are 12 options plus “other”)?
3. Which of the following would you rate as the highest priority for education in your region (there are 12 options plus “other”)?
4. In your own words, what do you see as the top 3 educational needs in your region?
5. Make a recommendation for how the Comprehensive Assistance Centers, a program supported by the U.S. Department of Education, can address those needs.

You are welcome to refer to NSBA's *Legislative Priorities* for [implementation of ESSA](#) in addition to your own recommendations:

Implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): NSBA urges Congress to ensure that implementation efforts secure balanced local-state-federal partnerships, maximize the flexibility provisions of the law, and support school districts through technical assistance and compliance resources. NSBA urges the Department to implement ESSA in a manner that: 1) recognizes and reinforces the law's clear directive to restore local governance and community ownership in public education; and 2) provides an opportunity for local school board members to meaningfully engage throughout the implementation process and provide input.

The Comprehensive Centers program

The Comprehensive Centers (Centers) program is authorized by Title II of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 (ETAA), Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA) of 2002. The Department of Education funds these Centers to provide technical assistance to State educational agencies (SEAs) that builds SEA capacity to: support local educational agencies (LEAs or districts) and schools, especially low-performing districts and schools; improve educational outcomes for all students; close achievement gaps; and improve the quality of instruction.

Before a competition for the Centers program is held, the ETAA requires the establishment of 10 Regional Advisory Committees (RACs). The purpose of these regional committees is to collect information on the educational needs of each of the ten regions. To the extent the Secretary deems appropriate, the Department will use the information submitted by the RACs, along with other relevant regional surveys of needs, to establish priorities for the next cohort of Centers.

*Thank you for ensuring that local school boards have a voice
in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.*



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