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For Immediate Release

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## Utah's ESSA Plan Available for Public Review and Comment

Draft reiterates state's commitment to providing equitable opportunities for each student

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is requesting public feedback on a draft of the [Consolidated State Plan](#) required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The plan is available at <http://www.uen.org/essa> for review and public comment until July 7, 2017.

Those interested in providing input can complete a survey available on the website. After incorporating public feedback, the draft plan will be revised before being submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on or before Sept. 18, 2017.

ESSA was signed into law in late 2015, reauthorizing the 50-year-old federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that was meant to provide equal opportunity for all students. Utah's draft plan outlines how the state has and will continue to direct federal funds to serve specific student populations to close achievement gaps and increase equity and access to quality instruction.

"The Utah State Board of Education is committed to equity and innovation as fundamental to ensuring each student is prepared for success," said Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

“Utah’s plan addresses how we are working to close achievement gaps through evidence-based instructional practices and providing equitable opportunities for improved outcomes. Our strategic plan in conjunction with ESSA funding will help us make a difference in the lives of all students.”

Much of what is addressed in the ESSA plan is already addressed in state statute and the USBE’s administrative rules.

The anticipated ESSA funding will focus on USBE’s primary goal of educational equity. Funding available through federal title programs support and provide equity for: students who are economically disadvantaged (Title I, Part A); students from migrant families (Title I, Part C); students considered at-risk, including neglected and delinquent (Title I, Part D); students learning English as a second language (Title III); students living in rural and remote areas (Title V); and students who are experiencing homelessness (Title VII).

In addition to the draft plan and survey, the public can access information about each title program, an ESSA timeline, and background resources on <http://www.uen.org/essa>. Webinars are planned for June 9, June 14, and June 20 to address each program. They will be recorded for future viewing and posted to the same website.

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