

# Transitioning to the Every Student Succeeds Act Reporting Requirements for 2015–16 and 2016–17

## Introduction

Effective with the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), December 15, 2015, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waivers to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) were rescinded and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) are no longer reported.

While AMO reporting is not required, reporting participation rates and sanctions remain in effect between the end of the ESEA waivers (August 1, 2016) and the implementation of the new ESSA accountability system in the 2017–18 school year. Participation must continue to be reviewed and reported for all student groups and assessments as noted in the [letter](#) from the US Department of Education received by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) on March 31, 2015. Beginning with the 2017–18 school year, North Carolina will report long-term goals and measures of interim progress for each student group. The long-term goals and measures of interim progress are currently under development and will be included in the NC ESSA State Plan submitted in September 2017.

## Calculating Participation Targets

In order to ensure that all students are included in accountability measures, schools are held to the standard of testing at least 95% of their eligible students on assessments administered in their schools.

The minimum number of students needed to report the participation rates of a student group is 30. Participation rates of student groups with less than 30 students are not reported. Participation targets are set on the following:

- End of Grade Reading (grades 3–8)
- End of Grade Math (grades 3–8)
- End of Grade Science (grades 5 and 8)
- End of Course English II (grade 10)
- End of Course NC Math I (grade 10)
- End of Course Biology (grade 11)
- End of Course Current Year Assessments (course enrollment)
- ACT® (grade 11) (Year 3 or more participation sanctions are applied only on the All Students student group [eff. 2014–15])
- ACT WorkKeys (CTE concentrator graduates)

## Student Groups

All participation requirements are reported using student groups. They are as follows:

All Students (school as a whole)	White
American Indian	Economically Disadvantaged Students (EDS)
Asian	Limited English Proficient Students (LEP)
Black	Students with Disabilities (SWD)
Hispanic	Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG)

## Participation Sanctions

North Carolina implemented through its ESEA waiver sanctions for missing participation targets. These sanctions must continue during the transition to ESSA. Schools that miss student group participation targets must follow specific steps to ensure that participation is being addressed. This process includes:

**Year 1**—When a school misses any student group participation target(s) for the first time it must, within 30 days after accountability results are approved by the State Board of Education (SBE), send a letter (sample text provided by NCDPI) to all parents informing them of the inadequate participation rate. Each letter must also provide a plan of action for ensuring full participation for all student groups, specifically targeting those that did not have adequate participation.

**Year 2**— The school will be labeled as a “consistently low-participating school” and will be required to create and implement an intensive intervention plan aligned with ensuring participation rates for all student groups to reach 95%. At the state level, within the Statewide System of Support, these schools will receive the most intensive support with the issue of participation rates.

**Year 3 or More**— Any school that does not meet the 95% participation requirement for any student group for three consecutive years for EOG, EOC, the ACT (only for the “all students” subgroup), and ACT WorkKeys will be identified as a Focus school. An additional letter (sample text provided by the NCDPI) must be sent home by the school indicating a third year of inadequate participation and provide a plan to ensure full participation for all student groups.

Schools will have participation targets for any student group that meet the minimum of 30 students reported. If a school does not have data, there will be no targets assigned to it. Some examples of schools that may have little/no data, include but are not limited to, K–2 schools, special education schools, hospital schools, or vocational and career centers.