

SCDE Response to
ESSA Stakeholder Feedback

Standards and Assessment

Compiled 7/24/2017 MB JM

The following are responses from SCDE workgroup members to stakeholder feedback around critical questions posed by the SCDE during three statewide stakeholder meetings held on 11/21/2016, 3/24/2017, and 5/11/2017. The SCDE is committed to listening and being responsive to diverse stakeholders as prescribed under §1111(a)(1)(A) of ESSA. This document is intended to demonstrate – in part – the SCDE’s response process. The changes and staff thinking reflected below may or may be incorporated in the final South Carolina ESSA Consolidated State Plan submitted to the USED in September 2017 as legal requirements and/or approval by the Governor and SSCDE senior staff must take precedence.

1 - Should the SCDE reduce social studies and science testing to federal requirements?

What changes have been or will be made to the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan based on stakeholder feedback?	If a particular change or request cannot or will not be made related to this question in the South Carolina State Plan, please explain the reasoning.
<p>Since the question was posed to the group, Act 94 was signed into law that requires a reduction in testing for science and social studies.</p> <p>As mandated in the Education Accountability Act, science and social studies tests have been administered in grades 4-8. In compliance with Act 94, beginning in Spring 2018, science tests will be administered in grades 4, 6, and 8. Social studies tests will be administered in grades 5 and 7.</p>	

2 - Should the state consider interim assessments leading to one summative score?

What changes have been or will be made to the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan based on stakeholder feedback?	If a particular change or request cannot or will not be made related to this question in the South Carolina State Plan, please explain the reasoning.
<p>The SCDE is developing performance tasks as a first step in studying whether interim assessments can replace the summative</p>	

assessments.	
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3 - Should students be able to exchange tests?

What changes have been or will be made to the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan based on stakeholder feedback?	If a particular change or request cannot or will not be made related to this question in the South Carolina State Plan, please explain the reasoning.
The question was about allowing individual districts to use the ACT tests instead of the EOCEP tests for accountability. While still an option for future years, Act 94 changes how college entrance assessments are selected and funded. This option will be considered for future years after details to comply with Act 94 are finalized.	

4 - What are your thoughts about the SCDE exercising this mathematics assessment option for accountability?

What changes have been or will be made to the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan based on stakeholder feedback?	If a particular change or request cannot or will not be made related to this question in the South Carolina State Plan, please explain the reasoning.
The SCDE is procuring a new contract for high school testing (the End-of-Course Examination Program or EOCEP). The RFP included an optional requirement for offerors to propose development of an Algebra 2 test. The SCDE is continuing to study this option, asking public opinion about the options. We are currently waiting for a contract to be awarded so the costs for this will be known.	

5 - What are your other thoughts and/or questions related to challenging academic standards under ESSA?

What changes have been or will be made to the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan based on stakeholder feedback?	If a particular change or request cannot or will not be made related to this question in the South Carolina State Plan, please explain the reasoning.
None of the comments directly addressed challenging academic standards. They were all related to testing.	

General ESSA Feedback

Over the last several months, General Counsel's office has been soliciting and collecting general feedback in regard to ESSA. Please read through the compiled general feedback provided in a separate document and indicate what changes have been made in the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan. Please complete blank cells in both columns.

What changes have been or will be made to the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan based on stakeholder feedback?	If a particular change or request cannot or will not be made related to this question in the South Carolina State Plan, please explain the reasoning.
<p>The legislature reduced testing in science and social studies.</p> <p>We are beginning investigations into whether we can eventually administer interim or performance tasks in place of summative assessments.</p>	