

## Adequacy Study Questions Addressing the State's Status Under ESSA

Staff of the Arkansas Department of Education were asked to address the following questions in their presentation of the state's status under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

1. Provide a brief overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and give highlights of [Arkansas's plan](#), including [plan amendments](#) approved in March.
2. We've now had two years of school letter grades awarded using the ESSA school index calculation. Briefly explain the ESSA school index calculation and the A-F grade designations. How has the ESSA school index improved school performance designations? Are there any changes that need to be made to the calculation to make it a more meaningful and useable measure of school performance?
3. A total of 184 of the state's 1,042 schools were placed in one of the federal designations for struggling schools. Describe the school designations under the ESSA federal accountability system (comprehensive support and improvement, targeted support and improvement and additional targeted support). Describe the ESSA requirements for schools identified under the federal accountability system, and provide an update on implementation so far. Describe how ADE is monitoring these schools and their districts. What impact do you believe these efforts will have on turning around these schools?
4. How has Arkansas incorporated career-technical education (CTE) in its ESSA plan? Describe how this incorporation will be changed or enhanced as Career and Technical Education is merged into the Department of Education?
5. Are there any lesser known aspects of ESSA that you believe are sparking important changes in Arkansas's K-12 education system?