



Early Warning Systems to Improve Student Outcomes Supporting States, Districts, and Schools With Every Student Succeeds Act Requirements

Evidence-Based Practice

Improving High School Graduation With AIR's Early Warning Intervention Monitoring System

The Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015 (ESSA) places substantial control for efforts to turn around the lowest performing high schools in the hands of districts and states. Compared to the prior Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, there is significant leeway given to states and districts, yet ESSA is very specific in terms of ensuring that students graduate from high school and that schools use evidence-based practices to support school turnaround.

About AIR

Established in 1946, American Institutes for Research (AIR) is an independent, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research on important social issues and delivers technical assistance, both domestically and internationally, in the areas of education, health, and workforce productivity.



ESSA requires that states identify any high school that has a graduation rate lower than 67 percent as low performing. Furthermore, the use of an early warning system (EWS) is an evidence-based practice used by schools throughout the country to support improving high school graduation rates.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) supports states, districts, and schools with the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of EWS initiatives. AIR EWS experts have developed tools and guidance and conducted research following a seven-step, research-based process that allows educators and school leaders to monitor student achievement and intervene early and often to improve high school graduation. Our EWS experts have worked with school, district, and state staff in more than 100 districts in more than 30 states, and we have expertise in building, implementing, and evaluating EWS initiatives. Our work positions us as experts in:

- Selecting appropriate early warning indicators for your local context
- Implementing early warning interventions and monitoring systems
- Creating EWS implementation support materials
- Assessing and improving your EWS program

The following table provides an overview of how AIR can support your ESSA implementation through EWS.

	Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	AIR's Early Warning Systems Support
High School Graduation Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school graduation rate is one of the five indicators to be included in the summative scores of schools. Every three years, states must identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement, including high schools with graduation rates below 67% for all students based on the four-year-adjusted cohort graduation rate. 	The purpose of an EWS is to identify students who are at risk of missing key educational milestones, such as graduating high school, and provide them with interventions to get them back on track. When an EWS is implemented successfully, students who are at risk of not meeting the education milestone receive appropriate interventions to get them back on track.
Use of Evidence-Based Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States, districts, and schools can choose their own evidence-based interventions based on local needs. States may establish and maintain a list of approved or suggested evidence-based practices. Districts may bring in an outside provider for implementation of evidence-based practices. Schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement by the state must create a School Improvement Plan, which includes evidence-based strategies for school improvement. 	AIR's Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System (EWIMS) implementation process is an evidence-based practice that districts and schools can use to improve high school graduation rate outcomes.

What other district and school leaders are saying about working with AIR on EWS:

- The EWS work... “became a great tool to look at kids and filter down with groups of kids. The data existed before but in six different files and with six different people, now it’s all in one place.”
- “Thank you so much for your help! Our graduation rate for this past year is going to be about 94%, which is the best in the school’s history!!!! Your team was a big part of our success, so thank you!!”
- “AIR is exactly the right partner to lead us as we embark on this EWS implementation journey.”

Our EWS experts look forward to discussing how we can support your ESSA implementation. For more information, please contact us at earlywarning@air.org or review our website at <http://earlywarningsystems.org>.

References

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, As Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act—Accountability and State Plans, 81 Fed. Reg. 104 (May 31, 2016). *Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States*. Retrieved from <https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-12451>

Heppen, J., O’Cummings, M., Scala, J., Therriault, S., & Yerhot, L. (2013). *High school early warning intervention monitoring system implementation guide*. Washington, DC: National High School Center.

U.S. Department of Education. (2016). *Overview of proposed actions: Accountability* [PowerPoint presentation]. Washington, DC: Author.

Washington Partners, LLC. (2015). *Overview of Every Student Succeeds Act* [PowerPoint presentation]. Washington, DC: Author.

AIR Experts



JENNY SCALA
 jscala@air.org
 831.621.4003



SUSAN THERRIAULT
 stherriault@air.org
 781.373.7007



1000 Thomas Jefferson Street NW
 Washington, DC 20007-3835
 202.403.5000
www.air.org

www.facebook.com/AmericanInstitutesforResearch
www.twitter.com/Education_AIR