

ESSA and Testing 95 Percent of Students

What the federal law says:

- 20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(4)(E) ANNUAL MEASUREMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT.—
 - (i) Annually measure the achievement of not less than 95 percent of all students, and 95 percent of all students in each subgroup of students, who are enrolled in public schools on the assessments described under subsection (b)(2)(v)(I) .*
 - This means: students who do not participate in required state testing, for any reason, would count “against” proficiency rates for federal accountability purposes. This is different than Wisconsin’s state accountability system, which does not include non-tested students in any achievement measures except the test participation calculation.
 - (iii) Provide a clear and understandable explanation of how the State will factor the requirement of clause (i) of this subparagraph into the statewide accountability system.*
 - This means: states must indicate if/how not meeting test participation targets impacts a school’s federal accountability rating or identification.
- The state by submitting an application for funds (the state plan), is entering into an agreement to meet the requirements of the law. Not complying with these requirements places the state’s federal funds at risk.

Questions:

1. In Wisconsin’s federal accountability system, do you feel we should go beyond the federal law in regards to the impact of non-tested students?

2. Are there any steps we need to take to ensure 95 percent of all students and subgroups of students are tested in each school in order to comply with federal law?