Steps to creating your local’s ESSA team

The opportunities of ESSA will only become real if educators lead implementation. Take steps now to build a strong ESSA team from your local, so when the district forms its ESSA stakeholder group (as required by ESSA), your members can be included and make their voices heard.

Here’s how to build your local’s ESSA team so your local can lead the way on ESSA implementation:

- Inform and engage your members
  - Reach out to members with information and resources from NJEA and NEA
  - Identify your members’ issue and activity interests using ESSA commitment cards and issue survey
  - Hold ESSA mini-briefings at school and/or community sites

- Invite existing member-leaders to join your local ESSA team
  - Help identify and invite new leaders to participate
  - Connect member-leaders to each other through the ESSA implementation group

- Cultivate leadership and recruit new member-leaders to participate in your local’s ESSA team
  - Consider a special focus on early career educators, diversity, practitioner leaders

- Convene your local ESSA team
  - Determine priority issue interests
  - Identify other community allies who are potential partners

- Claim your community’s ESSA implementation space
  - Send letters to the district and school board requesting an ESSA implementation meeting
  - Organize to pass a school board resolution on ESSA*
  - Host an ESSA community briefing with resources from NJEA
  - Conduct a scan of stakeholders
  - Request an assessment audit

*Contact your field rep for more information