

May 4, 2017



Dear Colleagues:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires professional development programs that are comprehensive, evidenced-based, and designed to improve the instructional services offered to all students. Professional development is an integral part of many parts of ESSA. Specifically, these sections include programs for students who are low achieving and whose families live in poverty, need to become English language learners, have specific literacy or STEM needs or have a disability. The requirements for professional development outline that parents, teachers, para-professionals, administrators, special service personnel and others must be included in these programs. This comprehensive approach is consistent with the requirements of Learning Forward as outlined in their Standards for Professional Learners.

The annual meeting of Learning Forward provides a curriculum to improve the knowledge of all members of the school community with information on what they need to know and how students learn so they can make a difference in children's lives. Additionally, these sessions are both evidence-based and ongoing as they link to professional journals, workshops, research, and web-based offerings. Critically, these sessions provide participants with the principles they will need to design and conduct their own school and district based professional development programs.

The Learning First Alliance finds the professional development sessions conducted during their annual meeting to be consistent with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act and recommend that professional development funds be used to support participation at this workshop.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Long, Ed.D.
Executive Director

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

American Federation of Teachers

American School Counselor Association

Consortium for School Networking

International Society for Technology in Education

Learning Forward

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Education Association

National PTA

National School Boards Association

National School Public Relations Association

Phi Delta Kappa International

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