

# Laws Supporting Youth in Education

**Every Student Succeeds Act Passed 2015**, this law is the nation's new education law. It replaced No Child Left Behind. ESSA was signed into law in 2015, but it will go into effect in the 2017–2018 school year. Its stated goal is to “provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.” Under ESSA, states will have more power to determine what education looks like in their schools, while still following a federal framework. Each state must develop an education plan to present to the U.S. Department of Education and Georgia is planning to submit its ESSA education plan in September 2017.

**No Child Left Behind Act Passed in 2001**, this law ensures that all children and youth have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments. In addition, this act requires that all schools be safe and drug free.

**John H. Chafee Act**, This act is part of the Foster Care Independence Act and provides flexible funding to states to help older and former foster youth transition successfully into adulthood and self-sufficiency. Services include support for high school completion, housing, employment, independent living skills, and financial aid for college.

**Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act**, This law requires integrated academic and vocational education that ensures full and equal access for special populations, including special services that might be needed to succeed.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**, this is the part of the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against public school students with disabilities and allows a 504 plan to be developed to help students with learning and attention issues whom meet certain criteria learn and participate in the general education curriculum. A 504 plan outlines how a child's specific needs are met with accommodations, modifications and other services "removing barriers" to learning. A student with a 504 plan usually spends the entire school day in a general education classroom.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**, This act ensures that all children with disabilities have access to a free, appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living.

**Indian Education Act**, This act provides funding to local educational agencies to support special education programs for Indians. It requires Indian tribe or parent involvement in planning, development, and operation.

**School-to-Work Opportunities Act**, This law provides funds to states for planning grants and for state subgrants to local partnerships to give all students the chance to complete a career major. It assures equal access to the full range of program components for all students, including youth in out-of-home care.