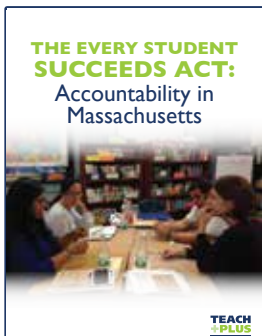
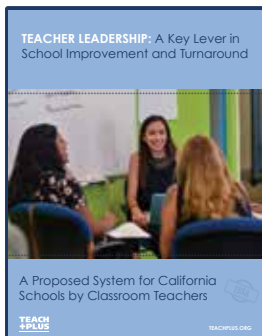
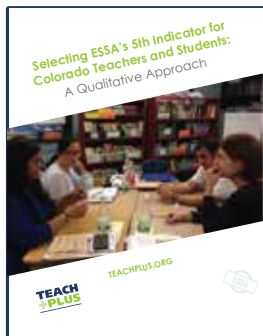
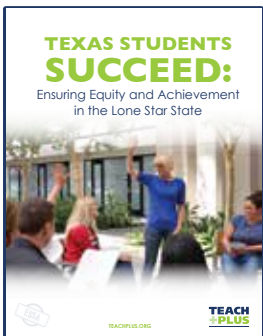
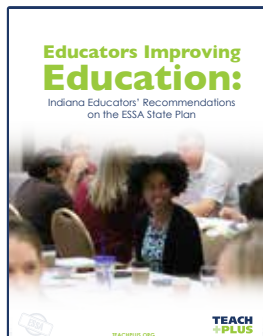


# LEVERAGING TEACHER EXPERTISE TO IMPROVE STATE ESSA PLANS

In 2016-17, states engaged stakeholders in the development of the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plans that will impact students, teachers, and schools across the country for years to come. Teach Plus teachers were active and vocal as the plans were developed, and engaged thousands of educators in grassroots advocacy in order to ensure that teachers had a voice in key decisions.



+ In **Illinois**, Teach Plus teachers held a series of ESSA Feedback Dinners and focus groups, engaging **347** teachers.

+ **Thirteen** teachers testified at state hearings on ESSA. The teachers shared their findings with the Illinois State Board of Education and published two policy briefs, "*Expediting ESSA: Recommendations for Accountability and Supporting Effective Teaching*," and "*A Seat at the Table: Teachers' Guiding Principles for Accountability under ESSA*."

+ The state's ESSA plan incorporates **16 of the 17 recommendations** and **four of the six indicators** of school quality recommended in the policy briefs.

+ In **Indiana**, **15** teachers co-led **seven** Department of Education ESSA community meetings, and held **16** ESSA focus groups with educators across the state.

+ The teachers published a policy brief, "*Educators Improving Education: Indiana Educators' Recommendations on the ESSA State Plan*."

+ **Five** recommendations from the brief on school quality indicators, communicating information to stakeholders, and teacher leadership were incorporated in the state's plan.

+ In **Maryland**, **20** teachers successfully persuaded the state legislature to weigh ESSA's academic indicators more heavily than non-academic indicators in a new state law.

+ **Twelve** teachers published a policy brief, "*Teacher Leader Recommendations for Maryland's New Accountability Framework*" and, at the invitation of the President of the State Board of Education, presented their recommendations to the full board. **Nine** were included in the state plan.

+ The teachers created a model "ESSA Dashboard" for schools and **three** of their recommendations to highlight and improve equity are being considered by the State Board of Education for adoption statewide.

+ In **New Mexico**, **14** teachers participated in Public Education Department-led stakeholder meetings across the state.

+ **Five** teachers held focus groups with colleagues and developed **14** recommendations for the state ESSA plan. They presented their recommendations to the Secretary of Education and submitted them in a letter that the Department called "*among the most student-centered, well-researched, and well-written*" recommendations that they received.

+ **Eleven** of the **14** recommendations were incorporated into the plan, which was rated #1 in the country by Bellwether Education Partners.