On February 10th, Education Secretary Besty DeVos issued a letter to Chief State School Officers that addressed a number of ongoing efforts related to the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, and its associated state plans and regulations. The letter is written in response to uncertainty as a result of the White House Chief of Staff’s January 20th memo ordering a freeze to all pending regulations, as well as Congressional efforts to repeal the regulations issued by the Obama Administration. In her letter the secretary makes it clear that states should continue working on their plans that will be due in either April or September. However, the Department is currently exploring how to create flexibilities to reduce requirements to only those “absolutely necessary” and expects to issue a revision to the consolidated state plan template by March 13, 2017.

The consolidated state plan template is a document that state educational agencies, or SEAs, must fill out detailing how they plan to use and evaluate the impact of federal education grants under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, or ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. While the department decides how to revise the requirements in the template and prepares for its new guidance to be issued on March 13th, states are advised by the secretary to continue “developing their plans based on the requirements under section 8392(b)(3) of the ESEA.”

Read the Secretary’s full letter here.