How to Begin Implementing ESSA in Your State

Determine if your state has already submitted their state plan to the Department. If your state already submitted a plan, and you (or other members of the profession) were unable to contribute to its development, take this opportunity to evaluate the plan and determine what opportunities might exist for the profession to engage.

If your state has not submitted a plan yet, find out who at the state level is implementing Title II (to assist you, AACTE has created a list of state contacts available to members in the Resource Library).

- Find out what your state chapter is planning regarding advocacy and ESSA implementation to coordinate your efforts.
  - If you need assistance in determining whom to contact in your state chapter, please visit AACTE’s website.

As you work with colleagues in developing a plan, here are some key things to consider:

- Discover how your state defines alternative routes to licensure or certification, which is the prevailing definition for Title II. You might even be offering such a program and not yet know it.
- Review the allowable uses of funds for the state portion of the allotment and consider:
  - What are you currently doing that you would like to scale up for a region or all of the state?
  - What do you want to create within the 21 allowable uses?
  - Who are/could be your partners?
  - What need of your state could your idea meet?
- Review the allowable uses of funds for the local education agency portion of the allotment and consider:
  - What do your local education agency (LEA) partners need that falls within the allowable uses of funds?
  - Who else in your department/school/college of education (or across campus) could you work with to meet these LEA needs?
  - Who else can partner with you to meet the LEA needs?