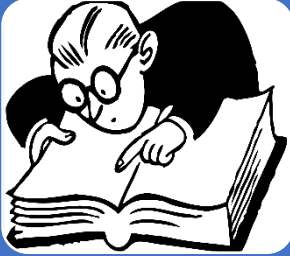


# Strategies for Using and Reaching Out About the ESSA Recommendations



## Educate Yourself

- Learn about what ESSA is and how it can be useful for afterschool programs.
- Determine what strategies mentioned in the recommendations your program already engages in or identify ways your program can expand to fill the needs of ESSA.



## School Leadership

- Reach out to principals and administrators of schools you hope to partner with and ask them for a meeting. Educate them about the power of your afterschool program and the ESSA recommendations.
- Ask them to partner with you in a discussion with district administrators.



## Local School Boards

- Reach out to your local school boards and ask for a meeting about ESSA. Your school leadership should be able to help you find contact information. At the meeting, try to bring school partners as well as parents to discussion the value of afterschool. Ask them to consider incorporating the recommendations into their ESSA plan.
- If you can't get a meeting, your local school boards should have posted on their website when they meet as a board. Meetings usually have public comment periods. Attend the meeting and provide comments about ESSA and afterschool!



## Illinois State Board of Education

- The Illinois State Board of Education meets every month and always provides opportunities for public comment. You and the parents and school leadership you are working with can provide comments about the recommendations and how you want to see afterschool in your district's plan and the plans of districts around the state.
- Here is the link to information about the Board meetings:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>