

Every Student Succeeds Act Talking Points

1. **Introduce yourself, identify SHAPE America/state affiliate/other pertinent organizations that you are affiliated with.**
Offer credentials as health and physical education professional.
2. **Share importance of health and physical education programs to students.**
 - Benefits to students – health, academic achievement, behavior, etc.
 - Use state/local data when possible
3. **Share personal stories about health and physical education from your state/school district/school.**
 - Identify program gaps and funding opportunities
4. **Discuss unintended consequences of *No Child Left Behind* on health and physical education.**
 - Not included in legislation – programs and funding were cut across the country
5. **Share highlights of *Every Student Succeeds Act*. ([ESSA fact sheet](#))**
 - Health and physical education included in definition of well-rounded education
 - Emphasis on prioritizing well-rounded education in states and school districts
 - Health and physical education on a level playing field with other academic subjects
 - Eligible for Title I, Title II, Title IV funding
6. **Overview of ESSA Title IV, Part A funding. ([Title IV fact sheet](#))**
 - Block grants to states – states will distribute to school districts
 - Funding can be spent on well-rounded education, safe and healthy students program, effective use of technology
7. **Make specific requests for support depending on audience.**
 - Prioritize health and physical education in state/local level ESSA implementation plans
 - Ensure ESSA funding is allocated to support health and physical education programs
 - Ask to serve on state/local level ESSA workgroups
 - Ask members of Congress to support bipartisan Congressional intent by funding Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act at its authorized amount of \$1.65 billion.
 - Ask members of Congress to send a letter to your state’s governor, chief state school officer or state department of education requesting that they support health and physical education as they prioritize and distribute federal education funding across the state