To help ensure equal opportunity for all students regardless of ZIP code, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires state accountability systems to include at least one opportunity indicator of school quality or student success. NEA’s “Opportunity Dashboard” provides helpful suggestions for these indicators.

Each state must collect and report on all indicators in its accountability system (disaggregated by student subgroup) and should quickly remedy any gaps in the resources, supports, and programs. Local report cards may contain additional indicators of school quality or student success to provide a means to identify inequities in resource inputs.

Take a careful look at the Opportunity Dashboard to choose qualities you think will equip your school/district to create the best learning experience for your students. Band together with your colleagues, school, and local NEA affiliate to list the programs and supports that must be included in ESSA accountability plans that will put students first.

Visit district schools to identify where there are resource inequities; use the Opportunity Dashboard to make a list of indicators of student success, quality educators, and quality schools. Ask yourself:
- Do all schools have access to the same resources?
- What differences did you find?
- With whom will you share this information (educators, parents, administrators, others in the community)?

Another resource that may prove helpful is the Great Public Schools (GPS) Indicators Framework. This framework is one way to work toward the goal of ensuring that the appropriate resources, supports, and programs are in place to narrow opportunity and skills gaps. The GPS Framework is designed to give policymakers, educators, and advocates a framework to evaluate how well states, districts, and schools address areas critical to student success and elaborates on the criteria integral to a school’s and student’s success.