



Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Reauthorization: In a huge step forward from where we sat last year, both the House and Senate Education Committees have introduced and passed legislation to reauthorize ESEA. While neither bill has yet made it to the full floor, AESA supports both bills and remains committed to advocating for complete reauthorization as the best and most effective way to address the shortcomings of current law and improve federal education policy to support ever-evolving education practices. The House bills are HR 3989 (Student Success Act) and HR 3990 (Encouraging Innovation and Effective Teaching Act). The Senate bills did not receive bill numbers.

Both bills positively address the major flaws of current law and push the pendulum of control of education back to the state and local levels. More specifically, both bills:

- Eliminate AYP, AMO, SES, and 100% proficiency
- Both return control of assessments and accountability to the states
- Both maintain math and ELA testing requirements
- Both continue data disaggregation
- Reauthorize REAP
- Promote growth models and multiple measures
- Include computer adaptive assessment
- Adjust 1 and 2 percent caps
- Require 4 year adjusted cohort graduation rate and allow states to calculate 5 and 6 year rates

Points of Concern:

- Both Bills: Preferential treatment for charter schools. All schools receiving public funding should face the same reporting and accountability requirements and regulations. If it is burdensome for charters, it is most likely burdensome for traditional schools, as well.
- Senate: Points of concern in the Senate bill include provisions related to Foster Children, comparability, and codification of RttT and i3. We support current law.
- House: Points of concern in the House bill include changes to Maintenance of Effort and Equitable Participation (we support current law), along with a proposed funding cap for Title I.

Waivers: The other moving part related to ESEA reauthorization is the Administration's set of waivers, aimed at providing targeted regulatory relief to state and local education agencies in exchange for adopting specific policy priorities. To date, more than half of states (33) and DC have received the waiver: AR, AZ, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA, and WI. A third and final round of waiver applications will be accepted just after Labor Day.

Talking Points:

- Urge your Senators and Representative to keep the pressure on their respective chambers' education committee to move forward with ESEA reauthorization.

- Articulate to your Congressional delegation that the presence of—or apparent support for—the administration’s waivers does not lessen or reduce the need to prioritize complete reauthorization of current law, which is badly broken and now FIVE YEARS past due.
- Explain to your members that their chamber’s education bill is a strong step in the right direction and that the committee-passed bills get much right, including returning control of education to the state and local education agency level.