

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

December 8, 2015

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association, representing more than 13,000 school system leaders across the country, supports passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We commend Congress for its collaborative work on this bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

The federal government has a critical role to play in federal education policy, and that is to support and strengthen—not dictate and prescribe to—our nation’s public schools. ESSA is a strong representation of this policy, preserving very important federal policy cornerstones such as equity, accountability, standards and assessments, but doing so in a way that empowers state and local education leaders to more effectively operate the systems for which they are responsible.

Congress has a long list of items to address this year. We commend both the House and Senate for maintaining steady momentum for ESEA over this summer and fall. We applaud Senators Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray and Representatives John Kline and Bobby Scott for their leadership throughout this process. ESEA is the primary K-12 education bill shaping our nation’s K-12 educational environment and experience and the Every Student Succeeds Act represents a marked improvement over the current law. ESSA provides our nation’s schools and the students they serve with a modernized, flexible approach to federal education policy. We strongly support ESSA and urge swift passage in the Senate, so the bill can move to the President’s desk.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Domenech
Executive Director
AASA, The School Superintendents Association



David R. Schuler
President
AASA, The School Superintendents Association

CC: U.S. Senate