

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Senate HELP Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative John Kline  
Chairman, Education & the Workforce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member, Education & the Workforce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 6, 2015

Dear Senators and Representatives,

On behalf of AASA, The School Superintendents Association and 49 state superintendent associations<sup>1</sup>, we write representing the nation's public school superintendents to express our strong support for a comprehensive reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), currently known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

**The current ESEA expired more than 7 years ago, meaning that our nation's K-6 graders have spent every day of their K-12 experience—to date—under an outdated and broken ESEA.** Our students want and deserve more. Though Congress has been engaged in efforts to reauthorize ESEA for the past seven years, we cannot continue to ask our nation's schools and the students they serve to live under the patch-work approach offered by the administration's waivers. Congress alone can and should address the shortcomings of current law and the waivers.

AASA has opposed No Child Left Behind since the legislation was introduced, citing the law's federal overreach, punitive measures, assumption that federal government knows best what local schools need, and unworkable mandates and requirements. More than a decade of NCLB implementation has demonstrated the problems AASA predicted, and has highlighted how current law relies on ineffective, costly requirements rather than supporting and trusting public school leaders to improve student outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> Hawaii does not have an affiliated state superintendent association.

Public schools in every corner of America are making remarkable strides in student learning. Individual school districts and schools are developing and innovating ways to improve student outcomes for all students. ESEA reauthorization always represents an opportunity to breathe new life in to federal education policy, incorporating the latest research and actual experience to improve student outcomes and eliminate achievement gaps.

Those efforts are under way: The House has moved its proposal—The Student Success Act (HR 5)—out of committee and is waiting for full floor action. The Senate committee is working through bi-partisan negotiations for a bill that will be marked up in the coming weeks. AASA has endorsed the House bill and is optimistic the Senate draft will make improvements on HR5 and further advance the ESEA reauthorization effort.

We (the undersigned associations) urge Congress to move forward with the very critical work of reauthorizing ESEA and providing all of the nation's schools with workable federal education policy that supports state and local innovations by striking the appropriate balance between federal government authority and state and local autonomy.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director  
Florida Association of School Administrators

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Dan D. Stephan  
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Wyoming Association of School Administrators

CC: U.S. Senate  
U.S. House of Representatives