

NSBA Supports Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the main federal law supporting public schools, is intended to hold states, school districts, and schools more accountable for improving the academic performance of each student regardless of economic status, race, ethnicity, proficiency in English, or disability.

First enacted in 1965, ESEA was scheduled for reauthorization in 2007. Instead, various provisions have been extended through congressional appropriations legislation. Full reauthorization is needed to correct its flaws and improve the school accountability framework.

Please read our [issue brief](#) for more about ESEA and NSBA's support for its reauthorization.

Talking Points for Local School Board Members

Use these points to communicate the key issues supporting ESEA reauthorization to other school board members, the press, and your members of Congress:

- If ESEA/NCLB is not reauthorized now, school districts will be forced to continue to spend money and staff time on ineffective mandates.
- The early successes of ESEA/NCLB have not lasted, and now the flaws of the bill are becoming more and more evident. States and districts that initially enjoyed high success rates are increasingly falling below the line. Indeed, 48 percent of public schools are now labeled as “failing” and are subject to corrective sanctions due to a flawed accountability system.
- Mislabeling students, schools, and school districts is unfair and unwarranted under the current legislation.
- Mandated corrective sanctions on “failing” schools and school districts have proved costly with limited or no impact on improving student or school performance.
- Congressional leaders and the U.S. Secretary of Education have acknowledged on record the glaring flaws in the current accountability framework.

NSBA's Position

NSBA supports reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Find out how local school board members can help by contacting Congress. [Read more](#)

Background

NSBA explains the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the main federal education law outlining requirements for U.S. public schools. [Read more](#)

NSBA's Actions

NSBA supports ESEA reauthorization to support local school districts: letters to Congress and federal agencies, comments, and grassroots calls to action. [Read more](#)

- See more at: [http://www.nsba.org/advocacy/federal-legislative-priorities/elementary-and-secondary-](http://www.nsba.org/advocacy/federal-legislative-priorities/elementary-and-secondary-education-act-reauthorization-esea#sthash.NYTsc1of.dpuf)

[education-act-reauthorization-esea#sthash.NYTsc1of.dpuf](http://www.nsba.org/advocacy/federal-education-act-reauthorization-esea#sthash.NYTsc1of.dpuf)

[legislative-priorities/elementary-and-secondary-education-act-reauthorization-esea#sthash.NYTsc1of.dpuf](http://www.nsba.org/advocacy/federal-legislative-priorities/elementary-and-secondary-education-act-reauthorization-esea#sthash.NYTsc1of.dpuf)

Say “No” to Federal Intrusion on Local School Board Authority

NSBA believes it is crucial for local school boards to maintain decision-making authority at the local level as well as accountability for high-quality educational services.

The expansion of federal intrusion on public education in recent years has impacted local policymaking in ways that impose unnecessary rules, conditions and restrictions, as well as significant costs, on local school governance.

Please read our [issue brief](#) for more about Local School Board Governance and Flexibility.

Support the Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act

NSBA supports the bipartisan Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act, S. 2451 and H.R. 1386. We urge our members to contact their congressional delegations to voice your support. This legislation would enhance local school board authority while ensuring that the U.S. Department of Education does not overstep its authority.

Talking Points for Local School Board Members

Use these points to communicate the key issues about the legislation to other school board members, the press, and your members of Congress:

- The U.S. Department of Education has taken action to reshape the educational delivery system in recent years. These actions have often affected local policy and programs in ways that are beyond the scope and intent of federal authorizing legislation.
- These federal actions often place a significant financial and manpower responsibility on local school boards.
- The actions also limit the flexibility of local school boards to make decisions that serve the best interests for their local districts.
- NSBA drafted a bill to address such federal intrusion in local school district decision- and policymaking (S. 2451 and H.R. 1386). [Please contact your members of Congress to ask them to support this bill.](#)

NSBA's Position

NSBA urges members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to support the Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act. [Read more](#)

Background

Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Representative Aaron Schock (R-Ill.) have introduced this legislation in both House and Senate. [Read more](#)

NSBA's Actions

Please [contact your representatives](#) to co-sponsor the Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act, S. 2451 and H.R. 1386. [Read more](#)

- See more at: <http://www.nsba.org/advocacy/federal-legislative-priorities/local-school-board-governance-and-flexibility-nsba-bill#sthash.koY78xsS.dpuf>