

2015 Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act



January 2016

The U.S. Congress continued the long-overdue process to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in early 2015. Both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives passed their respective bills in July 2015. The following chart compares the individual bills from each chamber with the final compromise legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, which President Obama signed into law in December 2015.

Policy	Every Child Achieves Act (Senate Proposal)	Student Success Act (House of Representatives Proposal)	Every Student Succeeds Act (Final Compromise Bill)
Academic Standards	Requires states to set academic standards aligned with the entrance requirements for the state's public system of higher education.	Requires states to set academic standards.	Requires states to set academic standards aligned with the entrance requirements for the state's public system of higher education.
Assessments	<p>Authorizes federal funding for assessment systems.</p> <p>Allows federal funding to be used for state and local assessment audits.</p> <p>Requires states to set a limit on the aggregate amount of time schools spend administering assessments.</p>	<p>Eliminates targeted federal funding for assessment systems.</p> <p>Allows federal block grant funds to support assessment systems.</p> <p>Allows federal funding to be used for state and local assessment audits.</p>	<p>Authorizes federal funding for assessment systems.</p> <p>Authorizes federal funding for state and local assessment audits.</p> <p>Allows states to set a limit on the aggregate amount of time schools spend administering assessments.</p>
Student Assessment Opt-Out	Not permitted.	Permitted.	Not permitted.



Policy	Every Child Achieves Act (Senate Proposal)	Student Success Act (House of Representatives Proposal)	Every Student Succeeds Act (Final Compromise Bill)
Accountability	<p>Removes federal accountability requirements for low-performing schools and student subgroups.</p> <p>Requires states to use multiple measures, including college- and career-ready indicators, in their accountability systems.</p> <p>Prohibits federal involvement in state accountability policy.</p>	<p>Removes federal accountability requirements for low-performing schools and student subgroups.</p> <p>Prohibits federal involvement in state accountability policy.</p>	<p>Requires states and districts to provide comprehensive support and improvement to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools, • public high schools that fail to graduate one-third or more of their students, and • public schools with a student subgroup that performs at the level of the bottom 5 percent of schools in the state that does not improve within a specific number of years set by the state. <p>Requires states to provide targeted support and improvement to schools with consistently low-performing subgroups of students.</p>
Effective Teaching and Professional Development	<p>Allows states to use federal funds for teacher evaluations but does not require states to have teacher evaluation systems.</p> <p>Provides flexible federal funding for professional development.</p>	<p>Allows states to use federal funds for teacher evaluations but does not require states to have teacher evaluation systems.</p> <p>Provides flexible federal funding for professional development.</p>	<p>Allows states to use federal funds for teacher evaluations, but does not require states to have teacher evaluation systems.</p> <p>Provides flexible federal funding for professional development.</p>
Personalized Learning for Students	<p>Supports personalized learning through federal funding for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teachers' professional development, • local school technology programs, • competency-based assessments, and • an "innovative assessment pilot program." 	<p>Supports personalized learning through professional development and the federally-funded technology program.</p>	<p>Supports personalized learning through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • federal funding for teachers' professional development, • federal funding for school technology, • federal funding for competency-based assessments, • an "innovative assessment pilot program," and • "direct student services" activities, for which states may use up to 3 percent of their Title I funds.
Student Data and Privacy	<p>Establishes a federal Student Privacy Policy Committee.</p>	<p>Includes "Sense of the Congress" provision encouraging, but not requiring, the U.S. Secretary of Education to review student privacy policy.</p>	<p>Includes "Sense of the Congress" provision encouraging, but not requiring, the U.S. Secretary of Education to review student privacy policy.</p> <p>Requires all grantees that receive federal funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act to provide an assurance that they understand their responsibilities under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).</p>

For additional fact sheets and videos about ESSA and Native communities, visit <http://niea.org/>.

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