

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

Resolution Summary

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was passed with bipartisan support and was enacted on January 8, 2002. The goal was to have every child proficient in reading and mathematics by the year 2014 and achieve at high levels. Major principles include 1) stronger accountability for educational results, 2) greater flexibility for states and local districts, 3) proven educational methods and 4) more choices for parents.

The law affects K-12 public schools, particularly those receiving Title I funds due to high poverty student populations. Core facets of the law include continuous assessment, adequate yearly progress, highly qualified teachers, supplemental educational services and disaggregated data.

In 2007, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as currently defined in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This critical opportunity now exists for the federal government to support the educational work being implemented in states and school districts as they strengthen public education in the United States. NCLB's signature features should remain intact, but changes are needed to make it more effective.

Additional Resource Information

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

Council of Chief State School Officers:

http://www.ccsso.org/federal_programs/NCLB/index.cfm

National Association of State Boards of Education: <http://www.nasbe.org>

National Education Association: <http://www.nea.org/esea/index.html>

Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind Management Directives

- **Management Directive #1:** Support efforts to recommend effective and efficient changes to NCLB so that every student can graduate and be prepared for either postsecondary education or for a career in their chosen field. This is achieved through continuing the foundation of standards-based reform.
- **Management Directive #2:** Offer greater focus on building state and local capacity to improve learning opportunities for all students, and support interventions in consistently low-performing schools and districts.
- **Management Directive #3:** CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's website and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

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WHEREAS, education is the single most important key to our nation's long-term success and to the future of each and every child;

WHEREAS, effective education builds a strong, diverse democracy, and prepares our citizens with the 21st century skills needed to succeed;

WHEREAS, NCLB charges schools with accountability to measure results;

WHEREAS, every child can learn, and at high levels;

WHEREAS, national assessments show that in reading, 9 year olds have made larger gains in the past five years than at any point in the previous 28 years;

WHEREAS, in math, 9 year olds and 13 year olds earned the highest scores in the history of the test;

WHEREAS, in both reading and math, African-American and Hispanic students are scoring higher, and are beginning to close the achievement gap with their white peers;

WHEREAS, bringing every student up to grade level requires a qualified teacher in every classroom;

WHEREAS, more options are needed for parents when their children are enrolled in struggling schools;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments encourages Congress to incorporate the following into the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind:

- 1) continue to support state and local implementation of the foundations of standards-based reform, including increased and continued funding for standards, assessments, teacher quality, data systems and accountability measures, at the same time providing greater freedom to states to improve upon these foundations;
- 2) provide greater support for states and districts to leverage standards-based reform to improve teaching and learning, including increased support for interventions in consistently underperforming schools and districts;
- 3) individual student learning must be supported through a variety of opportunities and interventions which will require increased funding to achieve all goals; and
- 4) invest more in innovation, research, technical assistance, and collaboration to allow for standards-based reform implementation.

Adopted this 3rd day of December 2006, at the
CSG 2006 Annual Trends and Leadership Forum
In Phoenix, Arizona



Governor Jim Douglas
2006 CSG President



Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin
2006 CSG Chair