

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

Resolution Summary

In 2002 President Bush signed into law the bipartisan, landmark No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. High academic standards and accountability for all students comprise the framework for federal education reform under the law. Achieving these objectives is important to the future of our children and our cities.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act established goals everyone supports: high standards and accountability for the learning of all children. But NCLB is falling short of its goals for many reasons. Now is the time to influence Congress as it considers changing the law.

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 all students learn at high levels and graduate with the skills necessary to be productive citizens.
- **Management Directive #2:** Create a sense of urgency for NCLB reauthorization to address the learning needs of all students and by fully funding the law so that schools can successfully implement its provisions.
- **Management Directive #3:** CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's Web site 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.

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

- WHEREAS,** implementing and adhering to the mandates of NCLB is proving to be a challenge and NCLB is in danger of becoming another burdensome under-funded federal mandate. Schools continue to struggle with funding, mandated annual testing, student transfers, and the requirement to provide supplemental services;
- WHEREAS,** schools need flexibility in implementing the standards of NCLB. A reauthorized NCLB should include a workable longitudinal or growth model as well as multiple sources of evidence to measure individual student academic achievement and school performance. There should also be greater flexibility in assessing and measuring the academic progress of students in subgroups, especially those groups facing unique learning challenges, most specifically special education students and English language learners;
- WHEREAS,** sufficient federal resources are needed to finance NCLB programs including full funding for Title I grants to school districts with a disproportionate number of at-risk students, the main funding source for NCLB; an increase in Title II for Teacher Quality Grants that provide funds to train, recruit, and retain highly qualified teachers; the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program that funds afterschool programs for NCLB and other programs in NCLB intended to increase the academic achievement of at-risk students;
- WHEREAS,** the Supplemental Education Services (SES) provision is a fundamental element of NCLB that provides disadvantaged students the extra academic help they need to meet the rigorous standards of NCLB. School districts are required to set aside 20 percent of their scarce federal Title I funds specifically for SES participation. Presently, only 17 percent of eligible students are participating in SES programs. School districts have been deficient in providing families the opportunities to participate in SES. A reauthorized NCLB should include provisions that would allow for all students who need extra help learning and achieving greater accessibility to Supplemental Education Services and provide a direct source of funding from the federal government for these services;
- WHEREAS,** NCLB provides for highly qualified teachers in core academic areas, but should focus on increasing flexibility for meeting the “highly qualified” teacher requirements, particularly for teachers of multiple subjects such as special education, bilingual, middle school, and rural educators, and advancing teacher quality at the highest poverty schools by providing funding to attract and retain quality teachers and improved teaching and learning conditions;
- WHEREAS,** NCLB should include a class size reduction program to improve student learning, with priority given to high poverty schools. Research has shown that reducing class sizes has a positive impact on maximizing student learning and closing achievement gaps, particularly in the early grades and students who need more individualized attention;

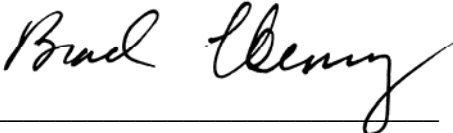
WHEREAS, NCLB should reinforce parental involvement programs and encourage community members to interact with neighborhood schools. Programs that encourage parent and community involvement in the school are vital in strengthening families and enhancing quality of life in our cities; and

WHEREAS, NCLB should support compensation systems that are designed to firmly establish teaching as a respected profession, improve student learning through improved teacher practice, and focus on factors shown to make a difference in teaching and learning - the skills, knowledge, and experience of classroom teachers.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments recognizes that to compete with their international peers, American students must graduate from high school with the academic foundation they will need to succeed in a 21st century economy. If implemented properly and funded, NCLB reforms will allow our kids to succeed and prosper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments calls upon the federal education policymakers to work closely with state and local education officials during NCLB reauthorization to examine how NCLB is working in their communities and where improvements are needed, while maintaining a focus on accountability and standards. At the same time the federal government must live up to its commitment and provide the necessary financial resources to implement the mandates in NCLB by fully funding Title I programs to low-income school districts, Teacher Quality Grants, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and other important programs under NCLB.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2007
at the CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum
in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Governor Brad Henry
2007 CSG President



Representative Deborah Hudson
2007 CSG Chair