

The Student Success Act



The nation's K-12 education law, known as "No Child Left Behind," has been due for reauthorization since 2007. Despite its best intentions, there is widespread agreement that the current law is no longer effectively serving students.

No Child Left Behind's "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) mandate has hampered innovation and limited states' and school districts' ability to effectively gauge and improve student learning.

The antiquated "Highly Qualified Teacher" mandate misplaces priorities and discourages local efforts to incentivize quality teaching. And, despite a monumental investment of taxpayer resources and more than 80 federal programs tied to K-12 classrooms, this top-down approach isn't improving student achievement.

The Student Success Act aims to reform "No Child Left Behind" piece by piece. Major components of the bill include:



Reducing the Federal Footprint



Empowering Parents



Supporting Effective Teachers



Restoring Local Control

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Reducing the Federal Footprint

The Student Success Act:

- Reins in the U.S. Department of Education by prohibiting the secretary from coercing states into adopting specific academic standards and imposing extraneous conditions on state and school districts in exchange for law or regulation waivers.
- Protects state and local autonomy over decisions in the classroom by removing the secretary's authority to add new requirements to federal programs.
- Prioritizes state and local decision-making by scrapping the inflexible "AYP" federal mandate and instead empowers states to develop and implement individual systems that are more closely aligned with local priorities.
- Eliminates nearly 70 federal K-12 education programs, consolidating program funding into a Local Academic Flexible Grant that school districts can use to support local priorities.
- Repeals federal funding requirements that arbitrarily restrict state and local policymakers' ability to set their own budget priorities.



Supporting Effective Teachers

The Student Success Act:

- Repeals one-size-fits-all "Highly Qualified Teacher" requirements.
- Supports the development and implementation of state and locally determined teacher evaluation systems.
- Requires states and school districts to seek input from teachers, parents, school leaders and other staff as they develop evaluation systems.
- Consolidates teacher quality programs into a new Teacher and School Leader Flexible Grant, which supports creative approaches to recruit and retain effective educators.

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The Student Success Act:

- **Maintains long-standing parental involvement, consent, and notification provisions in current law.**
- **Creates a Direct Student Services program that provides funds to school districts interested in offering free tutoring and public school choice options. This replaces current parental choice options that have been eliminated by the Secretary of Education's waiver scheme.**
- **Maintains support for the Magnet School program and its innovative education methods and practices that increase options in public education.**
- **Renames and improves the existing Parental Information and Resource Centers program. The new Family Engagement Centers program will help develop and implement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improving student achievement and retention through greater parental involvement**



The Student Success Act:

- **Eliminates the “one-size-fits-all” federal accountability system and instead calls on each state to develop and implement a tailored approach that more accurately evaluates student achievement.**
- **Frees each state to implement improvement strategies to raise the bar on low-performing schools.**
- **Upholds high standards for student achievement. Schools must continue to disaggregate data to identify and help close student achievement gaps.**
- **Repeals arbitrary federal funding requirements that restrict states’ ability to prioritize funding to the most effective initiatives.**
- **Grants school districts the freedom to distribute federal funds based on the needs of their own student populations, allowing superintendents and principals to target federal funds to support a better classroom experience.**

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