



## ESEA Reauthorization Status

Each week, or as new information becomes available, the Office of Federal Title Programs creates and disseminates a “Weekly Blast” which provides information regarding what is happening with reauthorization in Washington, D.C. The following is the most current update:

- On Friday, October 2, 2015, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced his decision to step down in December 2015. Duncan leaves the administration as the longest serving education secretary in U.S. history.
- Duncan will be replaced by John B. King, Jr. for the remainder of the Obama presidency. King is a senior advisor who has been the deputy secretary since January 2015.
- Former Speaker of the House John Boehner’s last day was Friday, October 30, 2015. Representative Paul Ryan from Wisconsin was elected as Speaker of the House on October 29, 2015.
- The House and Senate have formed a conference committee to reconcile the differences between the two bills. The Senate passed their reauthorization bill on July 16, 2015, and the House passed their version of an ESEA reauthorization bill on July 8, 2015. The chairs and ranking members of the education committee have apparently reached an agreement on a reauthorization framework to bring before a conference committee.
- An estimated timeline of events includes:

### Meetings to be Held

November 16-20, 2015  
 November 30, 2015  
 Early December 2015  
 Mid December 2015  
 Before holiday break

### House and Senate Events

Appoint conference committee members  
 File conference report  
 House vote  
 Senate vote  
 Send bill to the President

- The following key issues are still being discussed:
  - ✓ How much accountability?
    - To what degree states must address 5% lowest performing schools
    - To what degree states must focus on high school dropout rates
  - ✓ Limitations on the authority of the Secretary of Education

- Key provisions included in the framework include:
  - ✓ Assessment requirements basically remain the same (grade levels, annually, 95% rule)
  - ✓ Allows state to create their own opt-out laws regarding assessment
  - ✓ No changes to the Title I funding formula
  - ✓ Changes to Title II formula (which funds teacher quality) that would be a boom to rural states
  - ✓ States define accountability system
  - ✓ States must address 5% lowest performing schools
  - ✓ States must take action against closing the achievement gap
  - ✓ No Title I portability
  - ✓ Some programs are consolidated in a block grant. However, we're hearing that Title I, Title II, Title III, Migrant Education, and 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs are not in the block grant and remain separate grants.