

## Q & A on ESEA Reauthorization

- Q. If a reauthorized bill would be signed this summer, would the new law take effect for the 2015-2016 school year?**
- A. More than likely, no. If a reauthorization occurs, it will probably happen late this summer or fall. Then the appropriation process would need to be finalized, so the reauthorization probably wouldn't go into effect until the 2016-2017 school year.
- Q. It is our understanding that the class size reduction provision, which is currently an allowable activity under Title II Part A, would be eliminated in the Alexander Bill; is that correct?**
- A. Yes, it appears as though the option for class size reduction will go away when the reauthorization occurs. However, districts may still use their Title II or REAP funds for class size reduction for the 2015-2016 school year, as we would still be implementing the NCLB regulations.
- Q. For clarification, within the Alexander Bill, the highly qualified teacher requirements are eliminated. Are the Title I paraprofessional requirements eliminated as well?**
- A. The answer to this question still needs to be determined. It appears as though the reauthorization may leave this decision up to the states. If the federal law did not mandate these additional requirements for aides/paraprofessionals, then North Dakota certainly wouldn't mandate it. It is possible the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (ND DPI) would continue with the paraprofessional certification process as an optional practice for districts.
- Q. Do you believe that some programs (21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers and Title II Part B Math/Science Partnership) that are eliminated in the Alexander Bill could possibly be reconsidered and funded?**
- A. There is a movement within the reauthorization process to use a block grant approach, which would consolidate several smaller programs into two block grants: Title I and Title II. The concern with a block grant approach is that the state would get the same historical amount of funding for Title I and Title II, then be expected to implement a number of programs without any additional funding. This concept is very political and we'll have to see how it plays out.
- Q. It is our understanding that the Title I portability provision in the two reauthorization bills is optional for states.**
- A. Yes, that is correct. In both current reauthorization proposals, there is a Title I portability provision. However, states would have the option on whether to determine allocations using historical procedures or to utilize the portability option.
- Q. In the Alexander Bill, the 40% threshold to become schoolwide is removed. If a reauthorization occurs soon, could a school start planning to go schoolwide?**
- A. If a reauthorization occurs this summer or fall and includes a provision which would allow all schools to operate as schoolwide, the ND DPI would allow schools to begin the planning process immediately so that they could operate as schoolwide for the 2016-2017 school year.