North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
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Reauthorization Buzz

Most educators are aware that No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is significantly past due to be reauthorized. Enacted in 2002, if the law ran its normal course, it should have been reauthorized in 2007/2008. However, Congress has been divided on how to fix or improve upon the current law, therefore, it has been stalled for the past seven years.

We are hearing a lot of buzz that a reauthorization may occur soon. We've heard that the goal is to get a bill to the president by April 2015. Now that both the federal House and the Senate are controlled by the same party, there is a sense that more consensus exists and both groups can agree on the components of a new federal education law. However, Congress still has to be concerned about crafting a bill that the president will sign.

The bill getting the most buzz at this time is Senator Lamar Alexander's (R-TN) bill. Listed below is a summary of the Alexander bill which includes the positive components of the bill, two items of concern, and then some changes that are interesting to note.

We will continue to track this federal legislation carefully and will keep school personnel appraised as changes occur.

Alexander Bill		
Positive	**Concerns**	**Interesting to Note**
♦ Much less federal intrusion, increased flexibility ♦ Eliminates current AYP and 100% proficiency timeline ♦ Eliminates sanctions ○ SES ○ School choice option ○ No corrective action ♦ Schoolwide – eliminates 40% requirement – all schools may request ♦ Paraprofessional and HQT requirements eliminated ♦ Teacher/Principal evaluation – optional	♦ Eliminates several programs ○ 21st CCLC ○ Title II B Math/Science Partnership ♦ Makes Title I funding portable – follow the child (However, current language indicates the state <u>may</u> request this new option.)	♦ Mentions transferability option, but not REAP ♦ Still a requirement to identify schools for improvement; however, much more flexibility is provided ♦ Eliminates option for districts to fund class size reduction teachers under Title II ♦ Replaces SIG, 1003A, and 1003G with a flat 8% set-aside for School Improvement ♦ Gives states a variety of options regarding the assessment of students