

ABC



$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Federal Education Update

Lee Posey & Ben Schaefer
NCSL State-Federal Relations Division
2015 Capitol Forum

The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

- Most recent law: No Child Left Behind (2002)
- Reauthorization overdue since 2007
- Mandated 100% proficiency by 2014, contained AYP requirement, defined "highly qualified teacher"
- Shifted a great deal of control to federal government
- Impractical goals → need for waivers from law
- Race to the Top, waivers tied funding to use of common standards and assessments, federally mandated policies

The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

- 2015
 - House introduces H.R. 5, Student Success Act, in February
 - Senate introduces S. 1177, Every Child Achieves Act, in April
- House passed H.R. 5 on party line vote, 218-213, on July 8th
- Senate passed S. 1177 in bipartisan vote, 81-17, on July 16th
- Lots of uncertainty over the past few months as to whether a conference committee would be held and be successful, until...

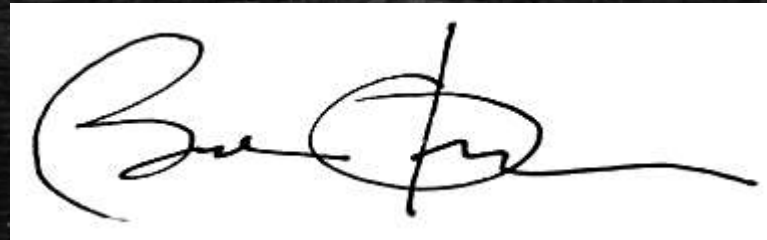
The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

- Deal reached in mid-November
- Conference committee met for two days (11/18 and 11/19) to review priorities, consider amendments, and vote on accepting the suggested language from staff
- Approved conference framework on 11/19
 - Vote of 38-1
 - Conference report text released 11/30



The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

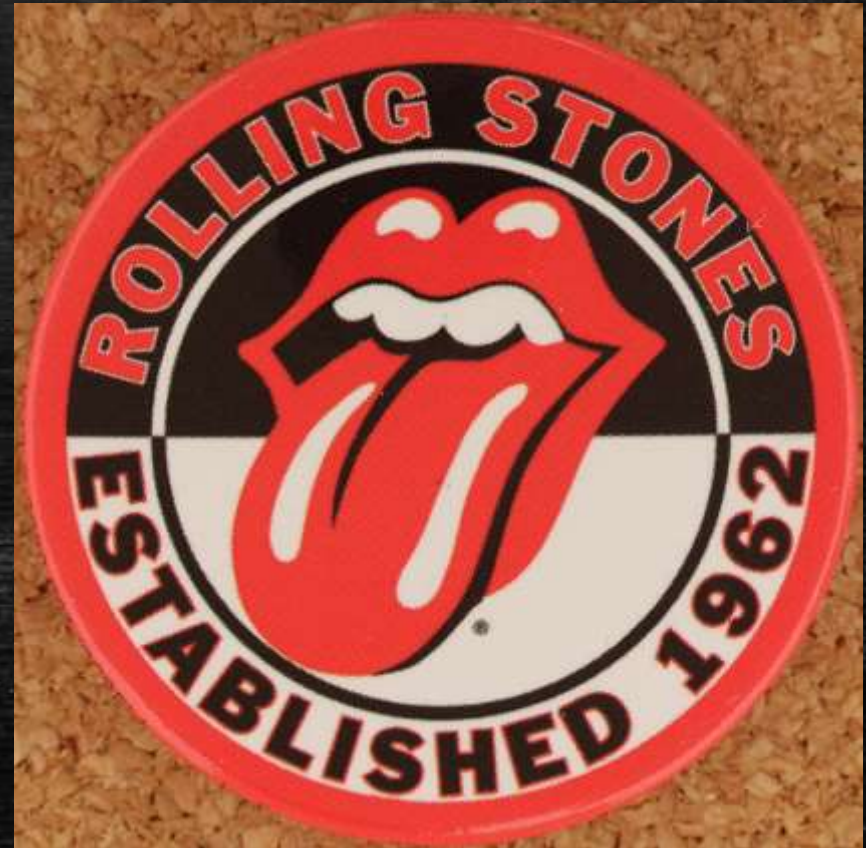
- House approved the conference report on 12/2
 - Vote of 359-64
- Senate approved the conference report on 12/9
 - Vote of 85-12
- President Obama signed 12/10



The Big News: ESEA REAUTHORIZED

- Lesson learned?

♪ **YOU CAN'T**
ALWAYS GET
WHAT YOU
WANT ♪



What's in the bill for states?

- Provision for state legislative involvement
- Prohibitions on Secretarial/federal authority
- New approach for accountability
 - No more AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress)!

What the Wall Street Journal said:

“...the largest devolution of federal control to the states in a quarter century.”

State Accountability Systems

- Required indicators
 - Academic achievement as measured by proficiency on annual assessments
 - Another measure of academic achievement
 - Progress of English Language Learners
 - A measure of school quality and student success
 - For high schools, graduation rates
- States must weigh the academic measures more heavily than the other indicators and will also need to incorporate test participation in their accountability system.

Assessments– New role, some flexibility

NCLB Assessment Schedule
Remains

Math & Language
Arts/Reading

Annually in grades 3-8

Once in grades 9-12

Science

At least once in each
grade span: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

- 95% participation and 1% cap on alternative assessments
- Test are less “high stakes”
- Statement of parental right to opt out
- New flexibility in assessment design
 - Use of nationally recognized high school assessment
 - Innovative assessment flexibility

What schools require intervention?

- Schools that are in the bottom five percent
- Any high school failing to graduate $\frac{1}{3}$ or more of their students
- Any school in which a subgroup of students is consistently underperforming

Other Title I Issues

- Portability...not in the bill, but there's a weighted student funding pilot that could allow some districts to experiment
- No formula change, but will study
- Accountability provisions for English Language Learners moved to Title I (previously Title III)

Other Programs in ESSA

- Education of Migrant Children
- Education of Neglected, Homeless, or Delinquent Youth
- Language instruction for English Language Learners and Immigrant Students
- Impact Aid
- Rural Education

More Programs in ESSA (continued)

- Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education programs
- McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- 21st Century Schools/Promise Neighborhoods/Community Learning Centers
- Magnet Schools
- Charter Schools

New Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

- Purposes
 - Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
 - Improve school conditions for student learning; and
 - Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students

Preschool Development Grants

- Allow states to develop, update or implement a plan to facilitate collaboration and coordination among existing early childhood care and education programs
- Encourages partnerships
- Maximizes parental choice

Preschool Development Grants

FUNDING

\$250,000,000

- Competitive
- For a year, can be renewed
- Grants can be used for needs assessments
- Renewal grants can help fund access

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER POLICY-RELEVANT ROCK SONGS?

Lee Posey
Federal Affairs Counsel
202-624-8196
lee.posey@ncsl.org

Ben Schaefer
Policy Specialist
202-624-8667
ben.schaefer@ncsl.org

