Goodbye NCLB, Hello ESSA

Amanda Karhuse, Director of Advocacy
David Chodak, Associate Director of Advocacy
History of ESEA

1965: Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) signed into law

2001: Reauthorized as No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

2015: Reauthorized as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

1975: IDEA signed into law

1979: Cabinet-level Department of Education created

Efforts to reauthorize that failed?
NASSP Advocacy on Reauthorization

NASSP Board Member testified at a congressional hearing

Collaborated with NAESP and AFSA for principals

Activated our Grassroots Network
Successes for Principals

- Creation of competitive grant for school leader recruitment and support
- Clarification of “school leader” definition as a principal IN the school building
- 3% optional reservation of Title II funds for school leader activities
December 2015: President Obama signs ESSA into law

August 1, 2016: ESEA flexibility waivers expire

2017-2018 School Year: Full Implementation of ESSA
Testing in ESSA

- Annual assessments in math and reading for grades 3-8 and once in high school
- Science assessments once in grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12
- National assessment (SAT, ACT, etc.) could fulfill high school requirement
- Required 95% participation rate
- Funding for states and districts to audit assessments
Accountability in ESSA

100% Proficiency

State designed accountability plans

Opportunity for advocacy!
Mandatory Performance Goals

High School Graduation Rates

Progress in achieving English language proficiency

Academic achievement on assessments

Additional Indicator

• Student engagement
• Educator engagement
• Student access to and completion of advanced coursework
• Postsecondary readiness
• School climate and safety

Opportunity for advocacy!
School Improvement

What schools will be designated for interventions?

• Lowest performing 5% of schools in the state
• High schools with graduation rates below 67%
• Subgroup underperformance

Must produce a Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan
School Improvement

Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plans:

• Evidence-based interventions
• Based on school-level needs assessment
• Identification of resource inequities
• Approval by school, district, and state
• Monitoring and periodic review by the state
Title I High Schools

• Changes in ranking order of eligible school attendance areas and estimating the # of low-income families *could result in more high schools receiving Title I funding*

• Title I High schools
  – **Must** develop schoolwide program plan
  – **May** use funding for dual or concurrent enrollment programs
Title II: High Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other Schools Leaders

- Many allowable uses for these funds
- Principals must compete with teachers, class size reduction, G&T students and school libraries among others

States can reserve up to 3% of funds to provide targeted support to principals

Opportunity for advocacy!
Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation

- Competitive grants for states to develop comprehensive literacy instruction plans for early childhood through grade 12
- Professional Development for educators and targeted interventions for struggling readers

Major priority for NASSP as a member of Advocates for Literacy
Title IV Part A funding is flexible but must fall into three big buckets:

- Well-Rounded Education
- Safe and Healthy Schools
- Effective Use of Technology

Opportunity for advocacy!
“Make ESSA Work for You” Campaign

Passage of law in December 2015 ➔ Full implementation in August 2017

Goals
1. Empower principals to be influencers
2. Raise NASSP’s profile as a leader in ESSA implementation
3. Influence policy
4. Expand NASSP’s PD program
What can principals influence?

- School performance measures
- Title II Funding
- Principal evaluation systems
- Resources for literacy and digital learning
How can principals be heard?

- Contact your state department of education and state legislators
- Connect with your state principals’ association
- Build coalition with teachers and parents to advocate on behalf of your school
- Make yourself a resource to your superintendent and school board members
*FGN Members receive a monthly newsletter from NASSP

*FGN Members are invited to our Advocacy Conference in June

*Respond to Action Alerts and work with state leaders

**Goal**
At least one FGN member in each of the 435 congressional districts

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Here in Washington, education advocates are closely following the regulatory process for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and NASSP is in the trenches for principals. We have been meeting with U.S. Department of Education officials, writing comments, and preparing for webinars and sessions to educate principals about the changes unfolding from this federal law. The law sends a great deal of power back to states and districts, so it will be important for principals to get involved early and often as the transition and implementation moves forward. NASSP is currently in the process of developing a toolkit for principals that will outline the various ways to make your voice heard, so keep an eye out for that in the coming weeks.

While the FY 2016 budget process was not finalized until just before the New Year, we are already looking towards FY 2017. On February 5, President Obama will release his FY 2017 budget proposal, prompting budget responses from organizations all over the country. Watch for more on this topic by following NASSP’s blog, School of Thought.

We are looking forward to meeting some members of the Federal Grassroots Network at NASSP’s annual Ignite 16 conference, February 25-27 in Orlando. We hope you will join us there, as advocacy staff will be presenting an informative session at the conference titled “Goodbye No Child Left Behind, Hello ESSA: What the New Federal Law Means for Your School.” NASSP Director of Advocacy Amanda Kirsch will also be moderating the State of American Education Panel featuring Jimmy Casas, former Iowa Principal of the Year; Keli Huyck-cook, president of the Education Trust; Molly Speerman, superintendent of education for the South Carolina State Department of Education; and Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

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**This Month's Top Advocacy Issues**

**ESSA Regulations**

The Every Student Succeeds Act regulatory process is underway. Before the start of the new year, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) officially put out a Request for Information (RFI) looking for comments from stakeholders on Title I. NASSP submitted comments in collaboration with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). In total, 389 groups and individuals filed comments. NASSP, along with NAESP and AFSA, has been meeting with ED officials over the last month concerning principals’ priorities in the regulatory process—professional development for school leaders in particular.
Webinars

Wednesday, March 23
*Title I and accountability*

Wednesday, April 27
*Title II and professional development*

Thursday, May 12
*LEARN, digital learning and the Title IV block grants*

All webinars 3:30 PM- 4:30 PM EST
Questions

National Association of Secondary School Principals

@nassp

Amanda Karhuse
Director of Advocacy at NASSP

@akarhuse

David Chodak
Associate Director of Advocacy at NASSP

@dnchodak