

News from the

**U.S. Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions**

Michael B. Enzi (Wyoming), Chairman



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***SENATE APPROVES EXTENSION FOR FLEXIBLE EDUCATION
REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS, DISTRICTS***

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee today said the Senate agreed to extend the “Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999,” which provides the Secretary of Education the authority to allow certain states to waive certain federal education requirements that may impede local efforts to reform and improve education.

“I am pleased that we are able take this step to provide our schools with the flexibility they need to ensure students receive a world class education,” Enzi said. “The extension of the ‘Education Flexibility Act’ will enable schools to have more say in how they conduct their efforts to improve education, without impeding the accountability measures laid out in ‘No Child Left Behind.’ This is a responsible piece of legislation, and I am pleased that it has passed.”

The bill, S. 2363, sponsored by Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), is designed to help districts and schools carry out educational reforms and raise the achievement levels of all children by providing increased flexibility in the implementation of federal education programs in exchange for enhanced accountability for the performance of students. The bill was approved by the Senate late Thursday.

“I commend Senator Burr for his hard work, and continuing commitment to the education of our nation’s youth,” Enzi added.

Ten states applied for and were granted education flexibility status under the 1999 law. The ten states are: Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Vermont.

The authority for the “Education Flexibility Partnership Act” expired at the end of 2004. The bill extends the Education Flexibility program until the “Elementary and Secondary Education Act” is reauthorized.

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