

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS

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Lamar Alexander of Tennessee - Chairman

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* and “Common Core State Standards”

The *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* **ends** federal interference in state standards and **ends** the federal mandates on states to adopt the Common Core State Standards.

What this bill does: The *Every Student Succeeds Act* restores to each state control over their academic standards. States will be responsible for choosing what academic standards to adopt or develop that are aligned with college entrance requirements and relevant State career and technical education standards.

The Federal Government is prohibited from:

- Requiring a state to submit any elements of its academic standards to the Federal government for review or approval in order to receive federal funding;
- Specifying, defining, or prescribing state academic standards, any specific element of those standards, and how states establish and implement standards;
- Mandating, directing, controlling, coercing, or exercising any direction or supervision over academic standards that states develop or adopt, including Common Core State Standards;
- Issuing any regulation that specifies, defines, or prescribes how states or local school districts establish, implement, or improve state academic standards;
- Influencing, incentivizing, or coercing states or school districts to adopt any specific academic standards, including Common Core State Standards, including by providing any priority, preference, or special consideration during the application process for any grant, contract or cooperative agreement that is based on the adoption of any specific standards;
- Making financial support available in a manner that is conditioned upon a state or local school district adopting any specific academic standards, such as Common Core State Standards or any other standards common to a significant number of states;
- Taking any action against a state that withdraws from the Common Core State Standards or otherwise revises their standards; or
- Endorsing, approving, or sanctioning the alignment of any assessment, instructional content, or curriculum to any specific academic standards designed to be used in a school.

Background: In 2001, No Child Left Behind imposed federal standards for what children had to know in reading and math. In 2009, the Obama administration’s competitive Race to the Top program required that states adopt Common Core State Standards and tests to be eligible to apply. In 2011, states began seeking waivers from the U.S. Department of Education from the unworkable provisions in No Child Left Behind, and the department required, in essence, the adoption of Common Core State Standards in order to receive waivers.

For more information about the “Every Student Succeeds Act” please have your staff contact Lindsay Fryer at Lindsay_fryer@help.senate.gov or Peter Oppenheim at peter_oppenheim@help.senate.gov or call 202-224-6770.