



Lamar Alexander of Tennessee - Chairman

Why We Need to Fix No Child Left Behind **The Every Student Succeeds Act**

The problems facing our country's K-12 students today:

- ❖ Most of our country's 100,000 public schools would be considered "failing" under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
 - These schools were unable to meet the unrealistic goals established in the 2001 law, which said that all 50 million students in 100,000 public schools must meet certain requirements on annual standardized tests in reading and math by 2014.
- ❖ To avoid the stigma of failing to meet the goals established in this federal test-based accountability system, **42 states and D.C. are operating under waivers** from the Education Department
- ❖ These waivers required states to adopt certain academic standards, take prescribed steps to help failing schools, and to evaluate teachers in a certain way.
- ❖ Common Core standards are experiencing the backlash among conservatives and liberals alike because states, in effect, coerced into adopting these standards to get a waiver.

This law has created chaos for states:

- ❖ Washington state lost its waiver for failing evaluate its teachers the way the Education Department dictated.
- ❖ Oklahoma temporarily lost its waiver for pulling out of Common Core and didn't get it back until adopting academic standards that met the Secretary's approval.
- ❖ California had its waiver request denied in 2012 for refusing to tie test scores to teacher evaluations.
- ❖ In Florida, a report found that students in some districts were being required to take **up to 200** additional tests, administered to prepare for the high-stakes federal tests required by NCLB.

Congress has failed to fix this law for EIGHT years:

- ❖ The Every Student Succeeds Act represents a bipartisan, bicameral agreement between the House Education and the Workforce Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to fix No Child Left Behind and restore to states and local communities the responsibility for teaching our 50 million children in 100,000 public schools.
- ❖ The House passed the Student Success Act on July 8, 2015 (218-213)
- ❖ The Senate passed the Every Child Achieves Act on July 17, 2015 (81-17)
- ❖ The Conference Committee agreed to file a report on November 19, 2015 (38-1)
- ❖ The House passed the Every Student Succeeds Act on December 2, 2015 (359-64)