

A Plan for Better Schools:
Every Child Ready for College or Career Act

Congress must act to give States the opportunity to help children in 100,000 public schools learn what they need to know and be able to do.

The Every Child Ready for College or Career Act would move decisions about whether schools and teachers are succeeding or failing back to states and local communities, where that responsibility belongs.

This will require fixing No Child Left Behind and building on 30 years of work that governors and chief state school officers have been doing together to develop higher standards, better tests, and accountability systems that will let parents and the community know how their children are performing.

Over the past decade, the U.S. Department of Education has, in effect, turned into a national school board by setting performance standards and having the Secretary of Education direct 100,000 public schools how to measure progress of students, how to intervene in low-performing schools, and how to evaluate teachers.

Specifically, the Every Child Ready for College or Career Act would:

- Free 100% of schools from the federal requirement of conforming to a federally-defined adequate yearly progress mandate
- Require states to have high standards developed by the state without interference from Washington
- Allow states the option to better direct Title I funding for low-income children to follow those children to the public school they attend
- Encourage states to create teacher and principal evaluation systems to replace federal highly qualified teacher requirements
- Reduce and improve necessary reporting so that parents, teachers, schools, legislators, and communities receive good information on schools
- Provide school districts with the ability to transfer funds more efficiently among the five largest federal education programs
- Streamline federal education programs that are duplicative and unnecessary to give funding flexibility to states and local school districts

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