

Federal Relations NAESP Update for December 2015
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The following is a recap of December Developments in Washington

Top Notes of the Week

- The Senate voted 85-12 on final passage of ESEA reauthorization, the Every Student Succeeds Act. The work on Capitol Hill to reauthorize ESEA is now complete and the bill has been sent to the President who is expected to sign the bill into law today, December 10th.
- The House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers introduced a short term Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government for an additional five days, until midnight on December 16, 2015 (H.J. Res. 75). The new resolution will prevent a shutdown and allow for additional time for Congress to negotiate and pass a year-long Omnibus funding bill.
- Applications are due December 14th for the US Department of Education Principal Ambassador Fellowship program. This year-long fellowship program offers the opportunity to serve as a voice for principals at the Department by either remaining at your school or spending the year in residence at the Department in Washington, DC.

ESEA Reauthorization:

December 9, 2015: Statement on the Senate passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) from the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP):

Principals will celebrate the elimination of No Child Left Behind's (NCLB) system of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), School Improvement Grants (SIG), and other letters that marked the highly punitive, overly-test-reliant era of NCLB. But more important, they recognize a great opportunity ESSA offers to create more holistic accountability systems that include successes a test score simply cannot capture.

We are pleased that the role of the principal received a prominent place in the bill's provisions. Specifically:

- Inclusion of the School Principal Recruitment and Training Act, championed by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) and Sen. Al Franken (D-MN).

- Inclusion of language crafted by Sen. Franken allowing states to reserve up to 3 percent of their Title II funds for principal professional development.
- Elimination of AYP and the 100 percent proficiency requirements
- Removal of unworkable school turnaround models
- Clarification of the term “school leader” as the principal of an elementary, middle or high school
- The inclusion of early learning coordinating services and support for important work to align Pre-K-3 standards, curriculum, and instruction with specific recognition for the role of elementary principals
- The authorization of the Preschool Development Grants, which will provide grants for states to expand high quality early learning for all three- and four-year-old children