



Education Insider



A weekly review of progress on legislation that impacts our students, classrooms and public education.

October 14, 2011

This Week's News:

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION BILL MOVING: TELL THE SENATE TO SLOW DOWN, THINK IT THROUGH, GET IT RIGHT FOR OUR STUDENTS

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has released [draft legislation](#) to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, currently known as No Child Left Behind. The stakes are very high for students, educators, and schools. We are very concerned about what we see. The draft committee bill:

- Still relies heavily on outcomes of test scores instead of supporting true multiple measures of school performance
- Prescribes top-down models of school turnaround that are not based on research, don't work, and ignore promising locally developed ideas.
- Takes away teachers' rights to have a real voice in their own evaluation systems.

We know this is the wrong policy for students and educators. But there is still time to improve this bill!

The Committee is scheduled to begin consideration of the bill as early as Wednesday, October 19. **It is urgent that educators weigh in now!** Remind Congress that **you** know what works in classrooms and for students. Remind them that you know the current flaws of NCLB better than anyone because you've been in the classrooms and schools carrying out mandates that don't work.

Take Action Today:

- [Contact your Senators](#) and tell them to slow down, think ESEA reauthorization through, and do it right for our students!
- **Stay informed** at www.educationvotes.org.

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VOTE TO SAVE EDUCATION JOBS POSSIBLE! TELL CONGRESS TO PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK AND KEEP STUDENTS LEARNING

In this edition:

[ESEA Reauthorization Bill Moving: Tell The Senate To Slow Down, Think It Through, Get It Right For Our Students](#)

[Another Vote On Education Jobs Possible: Tell Congress To Put Americans Back To Work And Keep Students Learning](#)

[Sign Petition To The White House To Repeal Social Security Offsets](#)

[Cheers And Jeers](#)

This week, the Senate failed to reach the 60 votes needed to move the President's American Jobs Act forward. [See how your Senator voted](#). But there's still hope! A vote specifically to save education jobs and modernize thousands of schools is possible during the week of October 17th. President Obama has said we shouldn't take NO for an answer, so let's make sure Senators know how much students and educators need—and expect—their help.

The need for this funding is evident in communities across the nation:

California – *Our campus was built in 1960, and has had little renovation or improvements since the first graduating class, aside from several portables that have been added in the parking lot. The portables do have air conditioning, and that's a big improvement, because my classroom often heats up well above 90 degrees on warm fall and spring afternoons. I recall several years ago there was a slow leak in the roof of the art department chairperson's classroom. Lacking the funds to fix the problem, the maintenance workers hung a large coffee can with some wire under it to catch the drips.*

Missouri– *One of the buildings in our district dates back to the Civil War.*

Several were built about a hundred years ago and our high schools date from the 1930s and 40s with some newer additions. None of our buildings are very "green." Some lighting changes have been made and most recycle, but little else. In the older part of one high school, I saw a class that was so crowded with desks that you could not easily walk through it. Only one building and parts of a few others are air conditioned.

Montana– *I am a preschool special education teacher and coordinator for my district. We have three buildings in our community, with the newest building, the high school, built in the late 1960s. Our other two buildings are from the late 1940s and early 1950s. The preschool is in a modular unit near the main building, and has no bathroom or sink. We have drinking water delivered, but we have to walk outside to the main building to use the restrooms. The walls have cracks, the doors leak, and the windows need to be replaced for more efficient energy use—we have a steam heating system that is very hard to regulate.*

[Read more stories and submit your own.](#)

Take Action Today:

- [Tell your Members of Congress](#) to put Americans back to work and ensure our children the education they deserve by supporting school modernization.
- [Share your story](#) -- Keep the stories coming. We are using your stories to help put pressure on Members of Congress to do the right thing and focus on creating a great public school for every student.

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SIGN PETITION TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO REPEAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSETS

A petition to urge the Administration to support repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) is now available on the White House website. The GPO and WEP unfairly cut or eliminate many public employees' earned Social Security benefits. The petition needs a lot of signatures in order to get the attention of the President. [Sign today!](#) [Learn more](#) about the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. To sign the petition:

1. Go to <http://capwiz.com/nea/utr/1/HXOHQQLYZ/MLNRQQLYYV/7456717141>
2. Click on "Create an Account" on the blue bar at the bottom of the page. Fill in the information and click "Register."
3. Check your email for a letter with the links back to the site. It may take several minutes to arrive. Click the link and sign the petition.
4. Trouble shooting:
 - The site is often swamped. If you can't get the "register" screen, bookmark <http://wh.gov/4KL> and try later.
 - If the link they send you doesn't seem to work, go to wh.gov/4KL again and try to sign the petition, anyway.
 - If you think you may have signed in and nothing has happened yet, refresh the wh.gov/4KL page and try to sign the petition.

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CHEERS AND JEERS

Cheers to:



The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which issued a ruling that temporarily blocks parts of an Alabama law requiring schools to check the immigration status of students. Since the law went into effect, scores of Hispanic children in Alabama have stopped going to school out of fear that they or their parents will be apprehended.



Representative Norm Dicks (D-WA), Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Committee, who wrote a letter to the "Super Committee" warning against failure to reach an agreement because such failure would cause automatic cuts to education – harming students and costing jobs.



Representative George Miller (D-CA), Ranking Member on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, who wrote a letter, the "Super Committee" urging a focus on job creation, including elements from the President's American Jobs Act.

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Education Insider is sent to your in-box once a week. We deliver inside information on developments in the federal government that affect children and public education. If you find this information useful, tell a friend. They can sign up for their very own copy at <http://capwiz.com/nea/utr/1/HXOHQQLYZ/IGZEQQLYYZ/7456717141> and click on "Become a cyber-lobbyist and subscribe to our weekly e-mail newsletter".

Help elect and support Members of Congress who will stand up for student and public education, who understand the value of teachers and education support professionals. Raise your voice. Click below to contribute today to The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education.

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Published by the National Education Association, 1201 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.