

January 8, 2014

Dear Chairman Kline, Chairman Alexander, Congressman Scott, and Senator Murray:

On behalf of state education leaders across the nation, I am writing to urge prompt passage of legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESEA, the foundation of the federal-state partnership in K-12 education, is long overdue for renewal. In the 13 years since Congress last revised the law, states and school districts across the country have developed and implemented innovations in standards, assessments, and interventions to support college- and career-ready pathways for students. While states have made significant strides, Congress has not updated the statute to support educators who are working to advance student achievement and eliminate academic achievement gaps.

As you consider reauthorizing ESEA, state education leaders urge you to provide adequate flexibility to better serve students while maintaining a focus on appropriately measuring student achievement, reporting disaggregated student achievement data, and promoting accountability for the use of federal funds. Attached please find a brief description of the general priorities of the Council of Chief State School Officers for ESEA reauthorization.

State education leaders are enthusiastic about the prospects for a successful reauthorization in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. We stand ready to support you in approving a revised ESEA that supports states as they work to ensure all students participating in our public education system graduate prepared for college, careers, and life.

Sincerely,



Chris Minnich  
Executive Director

Attachment: CCSSO ESEA Priorities

