

AASA Recommendations to Improve ESEA

CLEAR EXPECTATIONS:

AASA recommends revitalizing the federal/state/local partnership in education.

1. Eliminate under-funding of federal programs by changing the agreement between the federal government and states and the state and their school districts from a general grant to a contract with specific compensation for each required activity involved.
2. Federal dollars should be focused on supplementing local district efforts to increase achievement among the highest-poverty students.

FOCUS:

AASA recommends that Title I focus on fairly and accurately describing the progress of low income students.

1. Require states to help students, parents and teachers plan by laying out a clear path to the knowledge and skills students are expected to master throughout their schooling career.
2. Require states and school districts to continue disaggregating student achievement data to shed light on the progress of all groups of students.
3. Require states and school districts to disaggregate achievement for students served by Title I ESEA funds.
4. Judge the success of districts and schools based on the achievement of students served under Title I of ESEA.

FAIRNESS/ACCURACY:

1. Permit states and local school districts to use accountability systems based on either growth or status models to judge the success of school districts and schools serving Title I students.
2. Improve state accountability systems by making them:
 - a. More accurate in identifying schools a continuum of success in raising achievement of Title I students and targeting assistance to schools most in need.
 - b. Fairer to special education and ELL students by tailoring the accountability requirements and assessments to their individual needs.
3. Permit school districts that have the capacity to substitute a local accountability system if the state determines that the local plan more accurately measures the effect of instruction on students and is more useful in planning future instruction.

TRANSPARENCY:

AASA recommends transparent and fair federal oversight of ESEA

1. Establish an independent review board for all state requests regarding changes and waivers to state plans and all federal action on those requests.
2. Require the U.S. Department of Education to disclose every ruling made on state plans and state requests for plan changes and waivers in ESEA programs.
3. Limit the ability of the federal government to capriciously add requirements to federal programs without a timely and meaningful regulatory process or new legislation.



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