

Announcements

CEA Press Release December 9, 2015

U.S. Senate ushers in new era in public education with historic vote

Colorado Education Association welcomes bill to create greater opportunity for every student to succeed

DENVER – The U.S. Senate today approved S. 1177, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a bipartisan and bicameral bill to reauthorize the federal education law known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law as soon as this week.

“The passage of ESSA is a victory for students and educators and I am thankful Congress took action. However, the real work lies ahead,” said Kerrie Dallman, president of the Colorado Education Association. “CEA looks forward to working with our membership and other stakeholders and policy makers on the law’s implementation in our state. Just as CEA led the implementation and training efforts around Colorado’s educator effectiveness evaluation system, we will raise the voice of professional educators to deliver on ESSA’s promise to provide opportunity for all students.”

Students and educators have lived with the unintended consequences of the failed No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for more than 14 years. CEA members have waged an unprecedented mobilization and advocacy campaign on behalf of Colorado students in an effort to turn the page on the failed NCLB law and to bring in a new federal education law that provides more opportunity for all students.

“Educators will have a greater voice in the decisions that affect their students and classrooms,” Dallman said. “This legislation begins to close the opportunity gaps for students and ends the one-size-fits-all approach of No Child Left Behind. Not only does it reduce the amount of standardized testing in schools, but it decouples high-stakes decisions and statewide testing so students have more time to develop critical thinking while educators do what they love — inspire a lifelong love of learning.”

For CEA members, the stakes couldn’t have been higher. The extraordinary effort to get Congress to rewrite NCLB resulted in a unprecedented [bipartisan and bicameral](#) compromise and eventual bill language in late November. The bill sailed through the U.S. House with a vote of 359 in favor to 64 against.

Leading up to ESSA’s passage, educators mobilized in Colorado and across the nation, using face-to-face meetings with lawmakers, phone calls, petitions, emails and social media to urge Congress to bring the joy of teaching and learning back to the classroom and help close opportunity and resource gaps so that all students have access to a well-rounded education. Educators nationwide made nearly a half million individual contacts to members of Congress.

“Today, the U.S. Senate took a bold and historic step to usher in a new era in public education,” said Lily Eskelsen García, president of the National Education Association. “This is a deserved victory for public education because the Every Student Succeeds Act will ensure all students have equal opportunity to a high-quality public education regardless of ZIP Code.”

Events

Bunco’s Back!

Thursday, December 10

5:30 Social Time, 6:30 Game Begins CSEA, 2520 North Tejon

Bring your fun-loving self and get ready for a night of laughter, food, drinks and prizes...because that's the way we roll! If you'd like to come, please RSVP to Shelly at michelle.gemoets@d11.org.

Last Call For North Pole Tickets

We have a very few discounted tickets left for the North Pole. The price is \$16 per ticket for ages 2-59, which is a \$5 discount over the regular price. For those under 2 and over 60, admission is free. Call or [email](#) to reserve yours today. Because the number of tickets we have is so limited, you will need to pick up your tickets at CSEA within two days of reserving them.

Contract Fact

Article X3. Teaching Duties – Planning Time

a. A time equivalent to one-fifth (1/5) of the high school instructional assignment shall be reserved for each teacher's planning and conferences. The computation of the 275 minutes per day and the planning time equivalent may be based upon minutes per year. Required instructional time for part-time teachers shall be appropriately prorated. (Note: this is an average of 55 minutes each day over an annualized period.)

b. Following the Middle School Model per the 2000 Mill Levy Override language, middle school teachers shall have two equal planning periods per day, one individual and one team planning.

c. It is preferred that elementary school teachers have at least forty-five (45) minutes of uninterrupted time during the normal student contact day for planning and conferences and they will have at least three hundred (300) total minutes for planning per regular five (5) day work week. If a work week includes fewer than five (5) work days, an average of sixty (60) minutes of planning shall be provided daily in such weeks. To allow for flexibility in scheduling, a staff will collaboratively decide when to schedule different subjects, and to increase or decrease the number of minutes of planning time per day as long as there are approximately forty-five (45) hours of planning time per quarter of the instructional year which shall be distributed as collaboratively decided throughout the quarter. Notwithstanding the authority of the principal as the educational/curriculum leader of the building, the principal shall consider the input of all teachers in their building as schedules are developed consistent with the provisions of this Paragraph. Collaboration for purposes of this Paragraph means shared development of the final schedule and significant consideration given to the recommendations of the teachers.

Articles

[Rewrite of federal education law could spur changes to testing, accountability in Colorado](#)
[Study Finds Unions Improve Teacher Quality, Lead To Lower Dropout Rates](#)