

## **Announcements**

### **ESEA Reauthorization**

Throughout this week educators, parents and communities across the country are participating in a week of action to send a strong message to Congress to shift the focus back to student learning and opportunity, and away from testing, labeling, and punishing schools.

#### **Background**

Members of the House and Senate are focused on ESEA reauthorization. It is the most serious effort to rewrite the law, better known as No Child Left Behind, since it passed in 2002. The reauthorization of ESEA as an opportunity to set a new vision of shared responsibility for a public education system that promotes opportunity, equity, and excellence for all students.

**Member engagement in ESEA reauthorization is important** because changes in ESEA will have profound effect on the state level in our assessment and accountability systems.

Through ESEA reauthorization, we are advocating to:

1. Decouple high stakes testing from accountability. One test score doesn't tell you what is actively happening in the school or in the classroom.
2. Reduce the number of tests students are required to take at the federal level. Efforts in the Colorado legislature to reduce testing would link the number of tests to what is mandated at the Federal level; if the U.S. Congress reduces the number of tests, Colorado automatically does as well.
3. Empower educators with professional authority. The ability of teachers to make decisions has slowly been stripped away. Educators need to be involved in decisions such as how best to engage parents, curriculum, professional development design, etc.

**CSEA asks every member to participate in this week of action by doing one of these activities:**

1. Participate in a facebook and twitter rally!!
  - Take a picture of your testing calendar, tweet it to Senator Bennett (@SenBennetCO) and send him a message that students need more [#timetolearn](#), less testing.
  - Take a selfie and post to facebook with a written message telling Congress a new [#ESEA](#) must mean more [#opportunityforall](#) students; tag Senator Bennett in your post.
  - Participate in NEA's Twitter Storm on February 18. [Get all the details here](#) including sample tweets, signs, and other handy planning tools.
2. [Sign an online petition](#) and ask your friends and colleagues to do the same. Every single signature will count!
3. Visit [www.getESEARight.com](http://www.getESEARight.com), a one-stop shop that lets members, parents and the public participate in the fight for more opportunity, less testing, in a host of ways.

**By lifting our collective voice we can make a difference in our lives and the lives of our students.**

### **Events**

Beer and Food Pairing With The Extension

Friday, February 27 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 pm

Bristol Brewing Company & The Blue Star

The Ivywild School 1604 S Cascade Ave, on the north side of the building

Looking for a reason to go to school on a Friday night? The Extension invites you to join them to sample and learn about beer and food pairings. Members will receive an email with complete information on this event. Space is limited and reservations are required. You may RSVP to Leslie at [millela@d11.org](mailto:millela@d11.org).

### **Articles**

[Oklahoma May Scrap AP History For Focusing On America's 'Bad Parts'](#)  
[Why Sleeping May Be More Important Than Studying](#)