

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 5  
JULY 20, 2007

MORE ON REAUTHORIZATION

1. For the past several days I had the opportunity to meet with staff representing Congressman Dent (R – 15<sup>th</sup>), Congressman Murphy (D – 8<sup>th</sup>), Congressman Altmire (D – 4<sup>th</sup>), Congressman Platts (R – 19<sup>th</sup>), and Congressman Sestak (D -7<sup>th</sup>) and staff from Senator Kennedy's Office. Three of Congressmen are on the House Education and Labor Committee, but all Congressmen are keenly aware of the reauthorization of NCLB from input from their constituents. Senator Kennedy is the Chair of the Health Education, Labor, and Pension (HELP) Committee.

All staff believed reauthorization bills would be completed by the House Education and Labor Committee and the Senate HELP Committee by the end of September. If it happens, that is good.

2. The Chair of the House Education Committee recently sent a progress report to the freshmen Congressmen on nine key areas. These Congressmen are crucial for any reauthorization bill to pass. The key areas are: 1. Using growth models; 2. Interventions for school improvement; 3. ELL accountability and assessment practices; 4. Special education accountability and assessment practices; 5. Increases in funding; 6. Improving test quality; 7. Teacher reforms, 8. Dropout prevention; and 9. The use of multiple measures.

The PAFPC position paper includes recommendations for the issues numbered 2 to 6 which were shared with Congressional staffers. We did not include number 1, growth models because it was a done deal. We did not include teacher reform, dropout prevention and the use of multiple measures. The use of multiple measures with the current accountability system is the most ambitious and challenging change. Information differs depending on what you read or to whom you talk about the use of multiple measures.

In order to have a bill by the end of September those nine areas will be changed from current law if it is to move towards approval.

3. Roll Call, the Newspaper of Capital Hill reported in an article “NCLB to Get Left Behind?” that there will be a name change and we will no longer hear “no child left behind”.
4. President Bush continues to threaten a veto of the of the House Appropriations bill which contains a 6.1 billion increase for education.